

Lone hijacker detained in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — A lone hijacker who forced a West German plane to land at Istanbul Wednesday was captured after all 142 passengers were released, police said. The Lufthansa Boeing 727 was seized over northern Greece on a flight from Munich to Athens. The semi-official Turkish Anatolian news agency said the hijacker was a Syrian. A police spokesman told Reuters neither the hijacker nor anyone else was hurt but would give no further details. In Frankfurt, a Lufthansa spokesman said the hijacker was overpowered in the plane after releasing the 142 passengers. Turkish state television said he also freed six of the nine crew. Lufthansa had said earlier that the hijacker had demanded that the plane be flown to Libya. Athens air control officials said the pilot of Flight 316 reported the hijacking near the northern Greek city of Salonika.

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Arar confers with Egyptian minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar Wednesday met at the Prime Ministry with Egyptian Minister of Manpower and Training Saad Mohamoud Ahmad. During the meeting, bilateral relations between the two countries and means of bolstering them were discussed. The meeting was attended by Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh.

Arab council denounces U.S.-Israeli collusion in airlift

TUNIS (Petra) — The Arab League Council Wednesday condemned the U.S.-Israeli collusion to airlift Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) to Israel. The council entrusted Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibbi to follow up on the matter and collect information and facts about the matter and to refer his findings to the next council.

U.N. recalls all but essential staff from Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations will reduce its civilian staff in Lebanon to those carrying out the most essential functions because of security worries, a spokesman said Wednesday. A writer for the U.N. Relief Agency for Palestinian Refugees, Alec Collett, was kidnapped on Monday and eight other Westerners have been abducted this month. The U.N. spokesman, Joe Sills, declined "for security reasons" to disclose the number of Americans and Britons serving in U.N. agencies and programmes in Lebanon.

Saudi delivers message to Hassan II

RABAT (R) — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal delivered a message Wednesday from King Fahd to Morocco's King Hassan, the Moroccan news agency MAP said. Prince Saud said the message concerned Arab and Islamic questions but gave no more details.

Chinese-Iran arms agreement reported

LONDON (AP) — Iran has signed a \$1.6 billion arms agreement with China, its biggest weapons deal since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini came to power in 1979, the London-based Al Taqir newsletter reported Wednesday. The two-year contract to supply an arsenal of Chinese weapons of Soviet design was signed in Tehran, said the twice-monthly independent Arabic language publication, quoting unidentified Iranian sources. Al Taqir, published by Lebanese-born businessman Ali Bakout in the Middle East, Britain, France and the United States, said the deal included the export of 12 Shen Yang F6 fighter planes, 200 T59 main battle tanks, multi-barrelled rocket launchers, surface to air missiles, and hundreds of field guns.

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Riots erupt in Khartoum

CAIRO (R) — Riots flared in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum Wednesday in a second consecutive day of protests apparently over price increases for bread and other goods as President Jafar Numeiri was reported flying to the United States, eyewitnesses said.

The official Sudanese news agency SUNA said Mr. Numeiri had left for Washington (See page 2), where he was expected to seek further economic aid in talks with President Reagan and other American officials. Eyewitnesses said by phone from Khartoum that cars were set ablaze, but police seemed to be controlling mobs who protested after Mr. Numeiri dropped subsidies on bread and other goods. Sudan, hit by a rebellion in the south, stricken by drought and burdened by a refugee influx from famine in Ethiopia and Chad, is Africa's largest country and one of its poorest.

Large numbers of people were running through the streets and there were possibly buildings set on fire, one source told the AP. "Their main predilection seemed to be smashing cars," a diplomat at the U.S. embassy said. "I lost a few cars," both official and private, but that the disturbances did not appear to be directed especially towards the Americans.

Big explosion rocks Baghdad

BAHRAIN (R) — A big explosion rocked Baghdad Wednesday after Iran said it fired a "sixth missile" at the Iraqi capital in two weeks following air raids against its cities.

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties in Baghdad, but residents said a huge pall of smoke hung over a densely-populated area of the city after the blast.

Eyewitnesses in Baghdad said Wednesday they had counted 76 corpses laid out in front of an apartment building hit by an explosion on Monday when Iran reported its previous missile attack.

In Tehran, Iran's first deputy foreign minister, Ali Mohammad Besharati, said Tehran was seeking some \$350 billion in war reparations from Iraq as a condition for peace.

Mr. Besharati, in an interview with the daily Tehran Times, also reiterated another major condition for ending the war was the trial and "punishment" of the Iraqi government.

Baghdad newspapers said Tuesday Iraq would intensify the war unless Iran agreed to a comprehensive peace settlement. Iran said its latest missile attack was in retaliation for air raids

Israelis round up 100 villagers in S. Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Israeli troops hunting resistance men Wednesday raided a village in occupied South Lebanon, searching houses and rounding up about 100 men for questioning, security sources in the south said.

Troops entered Shabour, 15 kilometres east of the southern port of Tyre, in 10 armoured personnel carriers and 10 other vehicles and ordered about 100 men to assemble on the village soccer field, they said.

Resistance men meanwhile fired rockets at a pro-Israeli militia post near the market town of Nabatieh and militiamen immediately closed off nearby roads and combed the area, the sources said. There was no word on casualties.

The raid on Shabour was the latest in a series of villages east of Tyre known for anti-Israeli activity.

Gun, mortar and rocket battles Tuesday night between the Lebanese army and rightist militiamen in the south's main city of Sidon damaged buildings in eastern suburbs before falling off in the early

Regent graduates fighter pilots

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday patronised the graduation of a new batch of fighter pilots from the Royal Jordanian Air Force at the Prince Hassan Air Base on the occasion of the Crown Prince's birthday which coincided with the base's anniversary.

At the outset of the ceremony, the base commander delivered a speech in welcoming the Regent and expressing appreciation for the Crown Prince's continuing support of the Armed Forces to enable the forces to "remain as the fence for Jordan in confronting enemies and a back-up to the Arab Nation."

"We in this base have deep faith that its strength is an integral part of Jordan's strength and its Arab army and we should do our utmost to preserve this strength," he said.

Later, the Crown Prince presented certificates to the graduating pilots and prizes to excellent graduates. Prince Hassan and an official delegation accompanying him also watched a live exercise performed by the graduate pilots.

At the end of the celebration, Prince Hassan was presented with a token gift as a birthday present from the base commander. Attending the ceremony were His Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Royal Jordanian Air Force Commander Brigadier Ehsan Shurdim and high-ranking air force and Armed Forces officers.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, attends an exercise with a new batch of air force pilots Wednesday (Petra photo)

W. Bank press attacks Syrian-backed front

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Major Arab newspapers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank are attacking a Syrian-backed Palestinian bloc, saying that Damascus is trying to weaken the Palestinian cause.

Formation of the "national salvation front," announced on Monday, served only to divide the Palestinians by opposing the leadership of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, the papers said.

At a time when the PLO under the leadership of Yasser Arafat is trying to restore Palestinian unity at all levels, the Syrian regime persists in its anti-PLO efforts of harming the Palestinian cause in general, Al Fajr said.

Mr. Arafat has had the support of the bulk of the 1.3 million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Al Shaab newspaper said the establishment of the new front meant the continuation of Syrian interference in Palestinian affairs.

The front was formed by six groups favouring a harder armed struggle against Israel and opposing the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on a joint approach to Middle East peace.

Kidnapped scientist released in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Kidnappers Wednesday freed 60-year-old British scientist Geoffrey Nash, one of nine Westerners abducted in Lebanon this month, Mr. Nash's daughter said.

Mr. Nash, a metallurgist working for the Lebanese government, was left near his home after midnight, saying his abductors had mistaken him for an American, his daughter told Reuters.

"They thought he was an American," she said. "When they asked him questions and found he was British, they let him go."

Mr. Nash was to have medical checks at a Beirut hospital before flying to London with his Lebanese wife, she added.

She said she believed her father had been mistaken for an American because he worked in a seafront building also used by the American embassy.

Two other Britons, three French diplomats and a secretary at the French embassy, an American journalist and a Dutch priest have been kidnapped since gunmen forced Mr. Nash into a car as he was walking to work in west Beirut on March 14.

An anonymous caller told an international news agency in Beirut Tuesday that an organisation he named as the "Khaybar Brigades" would free the French secretary and two Britons "very soon."

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2 held in Cyprus in connection with attack on Alia

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (R) — The Limassol district court has remanded two Arabs into custody for eight days in connection with investigations into recent bomb explosions in Cyprus, police and court sources said Wednesday.

They named the two as Talal Ibrahim Anan, who they said was about 29 years old and carrying a Jordanian passport, and Rashid Al Hamed, about 25 years old and using a Moroccan passport.

They have not been formally charged. Under Cypriot law, police can seek further remand orders until their investigations are completed.

Last Thursday an explosion occurred outside the office of Alia, Royal Jordanian Airline, in Nicosia and a week earlier a bomb ripped through the Esso oil company offices in the capital.

A shadowy group calling itself "Black September" has claimed responsibility for the attack on the Alia office and for similar attacks on Alia offices in Athens and Rome.

Reagan edges closer to victory in vote on MX

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan seems assured of winning another 21 MX nuclear missiles but it remains to be seen what impact continued production of the multi-warhead weapon will have on Moscow at the Geneva arms talks.

Mr. Reagan's unprecedented personal lobbying effort for the MX paid off Tuesday when he won the third of four votes in Congress needed to release \$1.5 billion for the second stage of the project.

The final vote, scheduled for Thursday in the House of Representatives, is likely to mirror Tuesday's close house win of 219 to 213. Last week the Senate twice voted 55 to 54 in favour of the missile.

Mr. Reagan, who has invested much personal prestige in keeping the MX project alive, argued that the missiles were essential to strengthen the U.S. position at the Geneva negotiations.

House Democratic leaders, who were nearly unified against MX, said many congressmen voted with Mr. Reagan because they felt they had an obligation to give him whatever tools he felt he needed to succeed at Geneva.

NATO members endorse 'Star Wars' research

LUXEMBOURG (Agencies) — The United States' NATO partners gave strong backing Wednesday to President Reagan's research programme into a space-based missile defence system.

Defence ministers attending the final session of a two-day NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) nuclear planning meeting in Luxembourg set aside doubts about the long-term political and strategic implications of the programme.

They said: "We support the United States research programme into these technologies,

Arafat: Jordan, PLO agree on team

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Wednesday he has agreed with His Majesty King Hussein on the composition of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to open a dialogue with the U.S. administration. In an interview with East German Television, Mr. Arafat praised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's efforts to find a peace settlement to the Middle East problem, but said that the PLO would continue to adhere to its agreement with Jordan. Asked whether the PLO would recognise Israel as the U.S. demands he said that it was the legitimate Palestinian lawful right that needed to be recognised first, Jordan Television said. In Amman, PLO Executive Committee member Abdul Rahim Ahmad Wednesday praised the Feb. 11 Jordan-PLO accord and said statements by King Hussein and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri reaffirms Jordan's commitment to the terms of the accord.

King visits Spain air force base

ALBACETE, Spain (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by King Juan Carlos of Spain, Wednesday visited a southern Spanish air base and watched display by a squadron of French Mirage F-1 jet fighters of the Spanish air force.

King Hussein and King Juan Carlos, both experienced pilots, also flew combat training planes.

King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor, accompanied by Her Highness Princess Basma and her husband Mr. Walid Al Kurdi, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, began their four-day state visit to Spain on Monday.

Talks between the Jordanian delegation and Spanish government officials continued Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Queen Noor, accompanied by Queen Sofia, made a visit to the famous old Arab city of Granada.

The Queen was received by the mayor of the city and was presented with a token present on the occasion.

In a speech to the Spanish parliament on Tuesday, the King called on Spain to support the Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The accord, he said, offers a "sound mechanism" for peace in

the Middle East and it represented the "last chance" for peace in the region.

Later on Tuesday, in a speech at a banquet hosted by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, King Hussein thanked King Juan Carlos for his support for a just peace in the Middle East and said Jordan would continue to work for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem.

King Juan Carlos said Spain has relations of friendship and cooperation with the Arab World "and its purpose is to continue supporting its causes in the Middle East."

King Juan Carlos said he is worried about the Iran-Iraq war and said: "We regret the continuation of the conflict, both countries are friends of Spain."

"The Spanish government," the king said, "is to cooperate in seeking a formula to ensure the resumption of a pacific life between both countries."

King Juan Carlos also expressed his support for the Jordan-PLO peace initiative.

"The Spanish government views with sympathy the many peace initiatives proposed for the region," he said, adding that Spain was "following with the greatest interest the worthy efforts by Your Majesty to push the joint Jordanian-Palestinian formula."

Shultz opposes conditions on aid, ban on contacts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz has opposed a series of moves by pro-Israel members of Congress that would restrict aid to Arab countries and make further concessions to the Jewish state.

Mr. Shultz's objections were in a 40-page document sent to the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee for its consideration beginning on Tuesday of the foreign-aid package, which was amended in subcommittees last week.

In a cover letter Mr. Shultz said President Ronald Reagan's administration strongly opposes an amendment barring sales of sophisticated arms to Jordan until the Kingdom is ready to recognise Israel and enter into direct peace talks.

Rather than encouraging Jordan to further the peace process, the move appears to weaken U.S. support for the "courageous risks" Jordan has taken so far in encouraging the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to negotiate peace, Mr. Shultz said.

An amendment that seeks to put sole blame on Egypt for strains in its relations with Israel "would be a mistake," he said. "I could harm Egyptian-Israeli relations, U.S.-Egyptian relations and current prospects for progress in the peace process."

Noting the recent Egyptian peace initiative, Mr. Shultz said the timing of the amendment is "most unfortunate."

"Explicit pressure in the form of

legislative conditions on aid to Egypt, in particular the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, will more likely constrict the Egyptian government's freedom to manoeuvre than encourage further progress," Mr. Shultz said.

The subcommittee amendment says U.S. aid is provided to Egypt on the understanding that the country will fulfil commitments under the Camp David accords, including returning the ambassador.

While maintaining the diplomatic relations called for in the accords, President Hosni Mubarak has refused to return the Egyptian ambassador to the Tel Aviv embassy since withdrawing him in 1982 to protest the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the massacre of Palestinians in Israeli-controlled refugee camps.

Mr. Shultz questioned the constitutionality of a congressional ban on contacts between administration officials and the PLO because it is the president's "unique responsibility" to conduct diplomacy.

"Our policy concerning negotiations with the PLO remains unchanged and firm: U.S. officials do not engage in substantive contacts or discussions with officials of the PLO," Mr. Shultz said.

Making such policy a law, however, undercuts the administration's qualification "to develop and conduct U.S. policy in the Middle East in a way which best promotes U.S. national interests," he said.

Israel 'encouraged' by U.S. interest in Mideast

TEL AVIV (AP) — A senior Israeli government official signalled Wednesday that Israel was encouraged by increased U.S. involvement with the Middle East peace process.

The official, who spoke on condition he was not named, said the forthcoming visit to the region of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and recent contacts with Washington about starting a dialogue with the Arabs.

Since the visit of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Washington in early March, the official told reporters, "there have been different contacts involving Washington about the way to begin negotiations. This is a positive development."

The official also said the U.S. administration's decision to send Mr. Murphy to the region was "one of the positive fallouts of the Mubarak initiative and the recent opening of the peace process."

Mr. Murphy, who last visited the area late last year, was expected to visit Israel, Jordan, Egypt

and perhaps Iraq.

The Reagan administration decided to send Mr. Murphy to explore peace prospects after showing initial reluctance to get involved.

"We are encouraged that everybody now deals not so much with the tough questions of substance but rather with the operational question of how to get everybody around the table and Murphy is probably going to explore that with all sides during his visit," the Israeli official said.

The latest flurry of interest in restarting a peace process began when Mr. Mubarak offered in February to host talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

But Israel objected to Mr. Mubarak's suggestion that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation first meet with U.S. officials in Washington. The Israeli official said Israel's position had not changed: "We have made our position clear to the administration, and we are against negotiations that do not involve Israel."

Lebanon's kidnapped reportedly linked to jailed Kuwait bombers

KUWAIT (R) — Kidnappings of Americans in Lebanon over the past year appear to be in reprisal for 17 men jailed in Kuwait for bombing Western embassies in 1983, diplomats here said Wednesday.

The prisoners were sentenced a year ago Wednesday for blasts at the U.S. and French embassies and government installations in December 1983, which left six dead and over 80 injured.

Four Arabs hijacked a Kuwait Airlines plane to Tehran last December, killing two Americans, to try and secure the release of the pro-Iranian Shiite Muslims held. They include three sentenced to death but, as far as is known, not yet executed.

Diplomats said the kidnappings and the convictions were linked publicly for the first time last week. "But there have been whispers of this around for some time," one said.

News reports from Joliet, Illinois, said the sister of a priest kidnapped in Beirut last January, Lawrence Martin Jenco, had released a letter from him citing the link.

"I am being held hostage for

those men being held hostage in Kuwait. As long as they are held, I am held," he wrote in his letter, dated March 1.

The reports quoted Mithelich as saying she released the letter because it was similar to one made public by the wife of the Reverend Benjamin Weir, a minister abducted in May 1984 in West Beirut. She had previously kept quiet about it at the request of the State Department, but hoped disclosure would keep pressure on the U.S. government to try him for release.

Diplomats here noted local speculation going back a year over whether a clandestine exchange of kidnappers and the jailed bombers would be considered.

But, they said, Kuwait's firm stand against meeting the hijackers demands last December suggested it was unlikely to agree to any exchange which could be-

come public.

"I think there was a time when they might perhaps have been willing to have done one quietly, under the counter, for some of those carrying lighter convictions," said one.

In Beirut, callers claiming ties with the shadowy Islamic Jihad (Holy War) group have said they hold five Americans and a Saudi Arabian abducted over the past 15 months, as well as three French nationals and two Britons kidnapped recently.

Islamic Jihad, linked by U.S. officials to the Hizbollah (Party of God), a fundamentalist military group led by a coalition of pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim clergymen, also claimed responsibility for the December 1983 bombings here.

Five Iraqis and a Lebanese were sentenced to death last year — three of them in absentia — and jail terms of five years to life were handed down on 14 others for the bombings, with which Kuwait has said Iran was connected.

Kuwait said last May that the death penalties would soon be carried out, but diplomats say none is known to have taken place.

UNRWA pulls Britons out of Lebanon

VIENNA (Agencies) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is moving British staff out of Lebanon at the request of the British embassy in Beirut, the agency's head said Wednesday.

Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck said in a statement UNRWA will keep six international staff in Beirut and three in Tyre, to supervise 2,300 local

staff in schools, clinics and welfare centres that serve 256,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The British embassy had recommended the removal of British staff after the recent kidnappings of three Britons, including UNRWA's public information consultant Alec Collett.

"UNRWA is certainly not contemplating closing its offices or its operations in Lebanon," Mr.

Rydbeck said.

Collet, aged 63, was returning from an assignment in Tyre, South Lebanon, when the UNRWA car in which he was travelling was stopped at Khaled south of Beirut. According to first reports Mr. Collett was removed from the car when he was identified as British. The driver, an Austrian national, was able to continue to Beirut.

Jane's: Israel halts arms supply to Iran

LONDON (R) — Israel has ordered a halt to all arms shipments to Iran because it fears they may be transferred to Lebanon, Jane's Defence Weekly reported.

Jane's, usually reliable on defence matters, said Prime Minister Shimon Peres had reversed Israel's policy because he thought the

arms might end up in the hands of Shiite Muslim militias in Lebanon.

"This would increase the potential threat to settlements in northern Israel," the report said.

Israel, which views the 54-month-old Gulf war as weakening the capability of Arab states to

attack it, had previously been reported as a major supplier of arms to Iran, Jane's said.

It said Mr. Peres had also been influenced by Iraq's recent interest in closing ranks with moderate Arab states such as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.



MINISTERS OPEN COLLEGE: Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar (centre right) and Egyptian Minister of Manpower and Training Sa'ad Mohammad Ahmed (Petra photo)

Ethiopia accuses U.S. of 'abducting' Falashas

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — The Ethiopian government Wednesday accused the United States of luring its ancient Falasha Jewish population out of Ethiopia to Israel to depopulate this African state.

A Foreign Ministry statement, reacting to a Los Angeles Times report last week saying some 900 Falashas had been airlifted from Sudan to Israel by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), described the act as an abduction.

About 10,000 Falashas, said by Jewish experts to be descendants of an ancient wandering tribe of Israel which settled in Ethiopia, were secretly airlifted from Sudanese transit camps to Israel in 1984, according to the Israeli authorities.

Sudan, long an arch-foe of Ethiopia, said the operation had stopped shortly after it was reported in the world media but the Los

Angeles Times reported from Sudan last week that 900 other Falashas in Sudanese transit camps were transported to Israel this month.

The Foreign Ministry statement said that the Falashas, natives of Ethiopia's drought-stricken northern Gondar province, had been "hitherto detained in Sudan and were abducted to Israel with support provided by the U.S." Sources quoted by the Associated Press said that at least two of the transport planes took off from Khartoum, the Sudanese capital.

It accused Washington of "conspiring to lure Ethiopian nationals out of Ethiopia through devious ways with a view to depopulating Ethiopia."

The statement said the latest "abduction" was negotiated when U.S. Vice-President George Bush visited Sudan earlier this month.

Numeiri starts private visit to U.S.

KHARTOUM, Sudan (Agencies) — President Jaafar Numeiri flew to the United States Wednesday for a private visit.

The White House announced on Tuesday that Mr. Numeiri will meet with President Ronald Reagan on April 1.

A presidency statement issued earlier this week said Mr. Numeiri will have a "routine" medical checkup during his U.S. visit.

Mr. Numeiri Tuesday said he had lifted subsidies on goods to set Sudan's troubled economy on the path to recovery, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported.

Mr. Numeiri told members of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU), Sudan's sole political party, that "our policy is not to subsidize any goods and we are now proud that we have lifted all subsidies from all goods."

"That means we are on the correct path to improve our economic situation," SUNA quoted Mr. Numeiri as saying.

Mr. Numeiri's statement on subsidies came in reply to a question by a member of the SSU's central leadership on the reason for increasing bread prices.

These were reported by the government-controlled daily Al-Saba on Saturday to have risen by more than 30 per cent.

Mobutu ends Cairo visit, calls for Palestinian rights

CAIRO (R) — Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko ended three days of talks here Wednesday joining President Hosni Mubarak in saying there could be no settlement of the Middle East conflict without recognition of Palestinian rights.

"The two countries stress that a just and permanent settlement of the Middle East conflict must include recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including that of self-determination," they said in a joint statement.

Mr. Mobutu, whose visit was expected to consolidate ties between the two countries Tuesday, visited military bases where he inspected an exhibition of Egyptian-made weapons. Military sources said Egypt was seeking substantial supplies of copper from Zaire for its arms industry but the communiqué made no mention of any such deal.

Egypt has in recent months turned to African countries to market its military products, particularly light arms and communications

equipment. Mr. Mubarak explained his efforts to start a dialogue between the United States and a Palestinian-Jordanian team, as a prelude to later talks involving Israel, during his talks with Mr. Mobutu and the two leaders agreed to support any initiative that would bring peace to the region.

The two presidents, both supporters of Chadian President Hissene Habre, said settlement of the Chad problem could only be achieved through the withdrawal of Libyan forces backing rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei.

They also expressed concern over the situation in South West Africa (Namibia) and strongly denounced the "recent massacres committed by the racist forces of South Africa against unarmed black citizens." About 24 South African blacks were killed in clashes with the police last week.

Mr. Mobutu later left Cairo for a two day sightseeing tour of the upper Egyptian towns of Luxor and Aswan before returning home.

Turkish premier begins 10-day visit to U.S.

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left for a 10-day visit to the United States, accompanied by his defence and foreign ministers and other officials.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Mr. Ozal's wife Semra was with the premier as well as Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk, Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu and state planning organisation and armed forces Gen. Staff officials.

Mr. Ozal said that apart from official meetings his aim was to make Turkey known in the U.S. through meetings in press, television and financial circles, the agency said.

Mr. Ozal is due to visit New York, Chicago and Washington, where he will meet President Reagan at the White House on April 2.

Mr. Ozal's visit is the first official one to the United States by a Turkish premier since the 1972 visit of former Premier Nihat Erim, who was later assassinated by a leftist terrorist.

Yoz where he will meet with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss the Cyprus problem. U.N.-sponsored high-level talks between the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in January broke down without any substantial negotiations.

In New York, the premier will also meet with U.S. bankers, businessmen and representatives of the news media in a bid to attract U.S. investments to Turkey, enlarge Turkey's share of the U.S. market for exports and improve the country's image.

From New York Mr. Ozal travels to Chicago for two days of similar contacts and arrives in Washington the evening of April 1 for the official leg of his visit.

Mr. Ozal will hold talks with President Ronald Reagan at the White House on April 2 and will be the president's guest at a luncheon.

The premier will also have meetings with Vice-President George Bush, most members of the Reagan cabinet and members of Congress.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
18:00 Walt Disney
18:30 Local Programme on Agriculture
19:30 Programme Review
20:30 World News
20:50 News in Arabic
21:30 A local programme on Environment
22:00 Arabic Series
22:30 Tomorrow's Arabic
23:00 News in Arabic
23:30 Play continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 Tungs Bros. — la moto
18:30 News in French
19:15 Theatre de Bourville
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Bob New Hart
21:10 Feature Film: An Affair to Remember
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film Contd.

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
at party on 9560 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Morning Show
08:00 News Summary
08:30 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
09:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 News Bulletin
11:00 Instruments
11:30 Talking Points
12:00 Concert Hour
12:30 News Summary
13:00 Instruments
14:00 Old Favourites
14:30 25 Years of Rock
15:00 News Summary
15:30 Special Feature
16:00 From the Holy Koran
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Bulletin
17:30 News Summary
18:00 Evening Show
18:30 News Summary
19:00 Evening Show
19:30 News Summary
20:00 Evening Show
20:30 News Summary
21:00 News Bulletin
21:30 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show
22:30 News Summary
23:00 News Bulletin
23:30 News Summary
24:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 International
06:45 Radio 4 07:00 World News
07:00 24 Hours News Summary 07:30
07:45 24 Hours News Summary 08:00
08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Nature
08:30 24 Hours News Summary 08:45
08:45 World News 09:00 24 Hours
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09:15 World News 09:30 24 Hours
09:30 News Summary 09:45 24 Hours
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Alia to take delivery of two new TriStar planes in May

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is due to take delivery of two new Lockheed TriStar passenger planes in May and hopes to introduce them into operation in June.

The two new 240-seat planes are part of an \$80 million order placed by Alia in late 1982 for three TriStars from Lockheed. The first of the planes was delivered to Alia in March 1984.

The Alia order was one of the last orders for TriStars accepted by Lockheed before the U.S. corporation stopped production of the TriStar generation of planes. The purchase is partly financed by local and foreign loans to Alia.

"We expect the new planes to be in operation in June," said Nisar A. Aryne, Alia's vice president for airline planning and scheduling. "We have to carry out certain modifications in the aircraft and we intend to do it at our own bangars."

The planned modifications are mainly in the cockpit layout and galleys, Mr. Aryne said. "Of course the modification work could be carried out at Lockheed, but Alia has the facilities and technical personnel to do it here at a much lesser cost," he said.

The new planes will be introduced in Alia's routes to Europe and, provisionally, to the Far East, Mr. Aryne said. "We may replace the Boeing 747 used to operate the Amman-Bangkok route with one New TriStar and the 747 might be used for our Amman-U.S. flights," he added.

The arrival of the planes will increase the number of aircraft in Alia's fleet to 18 from the present fleet of two Boeing 747 Jumbo jets, six TriStars, five Boeing 727 and three Boeing 707.

More flight staff

"We have to increase the number of flight staff, cockpit crew, to cope with our requirements with the arrival of the new planes," Mr. Aryne said in reply to a question. He explained that while most airlines could maintain extra staff on the administrative level in their payroll "the question of extra cockpit crew is different." He pointed out that it was economically unfeasible to have such highly-paid extra personnel whose services are not part of the daily operations of the airline.



Nisar Aryne

The two new TriStars will be delivered to Alia in Los Angeles, and Alia personnel will fly the planes to Amman after an "acceptance flight" and close scrutiny of the technical specifications of the aircraft. Such procedures have to be completed before Alia will sign papers which will register the planes in the airline's name. "Once the planes are registered in Alia's name only Alia personnel could fly them," Mr. Aryne said.

In reply to a question on Alia's plans for new flights and routes, Mr. Aryne said the airline has decided to extend its present Amman-Istanbul flight to Moscow. "The inaugural flight to Moscow will be on May 2, and in July we will have direct Amman-Moscow flights," he said. However, the direct flights would be operational only during July, August and September, and in October the airline will revert back to Amman-Istanbul-Moscow flights, he said. Alia would use one of its Boeing 747 Jumbo jets for the Moscow flights, he added.

Another flight expansion would take effect in June when the present Amman-Singapore flight would be re-routed to land at Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital, he said. "Of course it does not mean a new route, but an additional landing point," he added.

Possible flights to India

Talks are under way between Alia and Air India to initiate the Jordanian carrier's flights to India, he said in reply to a question about one of the issues "that has been under discussion for a number of years." "The absence of a just-

tifiable base of enough potential passengers to and from both countries has been one of the stumbling blocks in reaching an agreement," Mr. Aryne said.

An Alia delegation visited India last month, Mr. Aryne said and he expressed hope that the first Alia flight would touch down in India sometime before the year is over. "We expect that such a flight will have an intermediate stop at some point in the Gulf, as we do in the case of our present flights to Karachi," he said.

The Jordan Times has learnt that Air India was not keen to fly to Amman because such a route was economically unfeasible for the carrier. It is estimated that there are over 8,000 Indians living in Jordan while Jordanians, mainly students, living in India may not number more than 1,500.

The results of the Alia delegation's visit to India and talks with senior Air India officials were encouraging, Mr. Aryne said. He added that there have been consultations between the Jordanian and Indian governments on the foreign ministry level but said he did not have any details. He expressed hope that a possible visit by Mr. Khushid Alam Khan, India's minister of state for foreign affairs, "will help things move faster." No date has been set for the visit, but it was learnt that the Jordanian government has extended an invitation to Mr. Alam Khan to pay a visit to Jordan.

Mahafzah outlines Mu'ta cultural events

KARAK (Petra) — Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafzah has affirmed that the university's cultural season, which was opened Sunday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, aims to strengthen national and Arab culture as a basic element in subjects studied at the university.

The event includes lectures on Arab culture, history, economics, politics, mass communications and law, he pointed out. A number of Jordanian, Arab and foreign scholars have been invited to deliver lectures during the season, which runs until the beginning of June, Dr. Mahafzah concluded.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Three people were killed and another 59 persons were injured in 164 road accidents in the country during last week, according to the Public Security Department's weekly report. The report added that 125 of the total number of accidents took place in Amman.

Cabinet exempts re-imported goods

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to exempt re-imported goods from customs fees provided the goods were re-imported within two years of their export and that fees were paid when the items were first imported to Jordan. An earlier decision specifies a period of five years for cars and other vehicles.

ACC approves loans for 61 projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) board of directors has approved JD 454,460 in loans to finance 61 agricultural projects in various parts of the country. The loans were extended for various irrigation projects, livestock farming, reclamation of arable land and highlands and the digging of artesian wells.

Civil councils meet in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The civil consultative and executive councils of Irbid governorate resumed their sessions Wednesday under the chairmanship of Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin. Mr. Amin said that the purpose of holding the session is to assess essential public services for the public to promote development in the governorate. Mr. Amin stressed the necessity of following-up on the collection of public funds to enable the municipal and village councils to implement their development projects.

Soft, classical Spanish tones in a warm atmosphere

By Jean Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Spanish classical guitarist Juan Manuel Cortes Aires was featured at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Tuesday in a concert organised by the Embassy of Spain in Jordan and the Spanish Cultural Centre.

If one had to choose only one word to describe Cortes style, it would be "soft." This quality was enhanced by the organisers' excellent idea to hold the performance at the small but beautiful studio theatre rather than the main theatre of the RCC. This contributed a lot to the success of this musical evening by creating a nice and warm atmosphere for an instrument which sound level is not well adapted to large concert halls, unless of course sound amplification, which unfortunately alters the guitar's tonal beauty, is used.

Juan Manuel Cortes first played

Milan's "Does Pevanas". The second piece, "Greensleeves", reminded us how beautiful this "traditional" piece is. So many bands and musicians have rearranged it in the past year that it was a pleasure to listen to Cortes play it with much taste and simplicity.

After two other relatively easy compositions, Cortes was obviously ready for J.S. Bach's "Sarabande" and "Bourree" from the Suite in E minor. In spite of one technical difficulty during a fast passage of the "Bourree", the guitarist nevertheless went through an authentic artistic expression and interpretation of Bach music. In a recording she made years ago, Barbara Polasek played this famous Suite with a yet unsurpassed virtuosity.

Gaspard Sanz "Españoleta", a piece sometimes given as a study to young guitarists, ended the first part. The second part opened with two studies from Sor.

Delegation continues talks on trade exchange protocol

Jordan, Egypt to sign 1m ton cement export deal today

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt will sign a trade agreement Thursday under which Egypt will import one million tons of cement annually from Jordan as part of a package deal between the two countries, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Adnan Badran.

The signing of the cement deal comes after three months of negotiations between the two countries. Egypt earlier offered \$36 per ton of cement while the South Cement Company (SCC) rejected the offer. Both sides have been conducting talks on the issue to secure a compromise.

Dr. Badran was speaking after meeting with the visiting Egyptian Director General of Al Nasr Company for Import-Export Kamal Hilali and the accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed means of putting into effect the terms of the protocol agreement reached between the two countries in October 1984.

The two sides agreed to exert maximum efforts to put the protocol agreement into effect since a new land-sea route will soon link Amman and Cairo and facilitate trade exchange between the two countries.

The two sides also agreed to form specialised committees to make listings of goods to be exchanged and to decide on monetary arrangements.

The two parties also reviewed the possibilities of exchanging other goods, while the Egyptian side showed interest in importing Jordanian glass and reinforced iron bars.

Dr. Badran said that further talks will be held during the delegation's visit to determine the banks which will accredit to

both sides. He said that the Al Nasr company and the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation will be the executing bodies for the agreement.

The talks were attended by the director general of the Commercial Centres Corporation, Ministry of Industry and Trade officials and a representative from the Central Bank of Jordan on the Jordanian side and the under secretary of the Ministry of National Economy and a number of private sector officials on the Egyptian side.

The delegation arrived here Wednesday on a visit lasting three days.

Jordan and Egypt signed a trade protocol agreement in October 1984. The agreement calls for the exchange of 30 manufactured items between each of the two countries and provides for Jordan to export goods worth \$30 million to Egypt. The agreement provides for equal transactions of goods between the two countries.

W. Germany to provide tools, equipment for physics faculty

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and West Germany Wednesday exchanged memoranda under which Germany will provide the Faculty of Physics at the University of Jordan with machines, tools and spare parts and will train Jordanians in West Germany as part of the German technical aid programme for 1984.

The memoranda were signed by Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and German Ambassador in Amman Herwig Bartels.

West Germany provided the University of Jordan with a number of physics machines including a nuclear accelerator as part of Germany's aid programme in Jordan.

Meanwhile a team from the German technical aid department at West Germany's Ministry of Economic Aid Wednesday visited the Karak Cooperative Department and Karak Chamber of Commerce and discussed ways of developing industrial projects,

Court sentences murderer of four-year old to death

AMMAN (J.T.) — A criminal who kidnapped and murdered a four-year-old child was sentenced to death by the grand criminal court of Amman, according to a report in the Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper published Tuesday.

The criminal, who kidnapped the girl in April 1984 from Amman, took her to Zarqa to live with him and his mistress, claiming to neighbours that the girl was his daughter, the report said.

The child who could not adapt to the new home kept shouting and crying, the kidnapper said in his testimony.

He confessed that he tried to stop the girl from shouting by in-

imidation and torture. He admitted that he submerged the girl's head in water, whipped her with a piece of rubber hose and took photos of the girl naked.

The girl died as a result of torture, the report said. The man then put her corpse in a large carton, hired a taxi and dropped the box in an alley in Amman, according to the report.

The father of Fadla, the murdered child, Mr. Sameer Ktourt, said that his child was kidnapped while playing in front of their home on April 27, 1984. Neighbours reported that a man was playing with the child before taking her away in his car.

Computer seminar concludes

IRBID (Petra) — Participants in a computers and information seminar, which was concluded Wednesday at Yarmouk University, sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein expressing their thanks and appreciation for the care and hospitality extended to them dur-

ing the seminar. They also hailed Jordan's achievements under the King's leadership.

The seminar called on Arab universities to issue a directory which includes all kinds of computers, their capacities, programmes and systems.

Jordan opens acting institute to mark Theatre Day

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday marked "International Theatre Day" by inaugurating an acting institute and staging two theatrical plays: "This is Life" at the Department of Culture and Arts theatre and "Harbasha's Journey" at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Also Wednesday, the second day of a three-day seminar on "Theatre in Jordan" continued its discussions on theatre movement in the country. The discussion followed a paper presented by Mr. Abdulatif Shamma, a prominent Jordanian art critic, which discussed "Land Marks in the History of Jordanian Theatre". Mr. Shamma mentioned the history of Jordanian theatre tracing it back to the early sixties and seventies. He concluded that those theatrical plays which succeed are those which "tackle issues pertaining to human problems" and that the theatrical message within the play should be clear, precise and far away from using "symbolism".

The seminar was opened Tuesday evening by Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and Acting Information Minister Taher Hikmat who said that "Art is created by personal imagination and endeavours and governments were never behind the promotion of any kind of art." Mr. Hikmat also said that the government had more pressing issues to tackle before being able to attend to artistic problems.

He said: "Due to the vast changes in all levels in Jordan, it has become difficult for the public sector to pay attention to the theatre vis-a-vis more pressing issues."

Mr. Hikmat added that theatre grows separately from the official support and without the need for direct governmental assistance.

Mr. Hikmat said that the various political and social challenges facing Jordan at this stage provide a favourable atmosphere for creating theatrical plays reflecting these challenges and every day problems.

Raising questions for discussion by participants at the seminar held at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office, Mr. Hikmat asked how far the scarcity of financial resources has affected the theatre movement in the Kingdom.

Citing examples of experiences in other countries in the field, Mr. Hikmat said that France encouraged "Cafe Theatre" while

Latin American countries developed a "Theatre of the Poor" which needed no luxurious auditoriums or grand stages.

The minister said that not much research has been conducted on the theatre crisis in Jordan and that the last seminar held on the issue was organised in 1978. "It is sad to realise that the second seminar in Jordan is organised on the issue after so many years," he added. The minister also said that the new acting institute will offer intensive courses on the art of theatre which will enable Jordanians who are interested in theatre to obtain free training in both academic and practical fields.

At the opening session Mr. Mufid Hawamdeh, from Yarmouk University, presented a paper on "The Status of Theatre Art in the Arab World with an Emphasis on Jordan" from which he concluded that all theatre plays in Jordan are "associated with individuals not with groups." He added that children's theatre focuses on popular fairy tales which are unsuitable for the electronic age in which we live. He also pointed

out that the government has not incorporated the idea of promoting theatre arts in their development plans.

Mr. Hawamdeh added that there is no continuity in the production of plays and that in 1984 only 16 local plays were presented.

Mr. Hawamdeh said that another factor is that Jordanians do not regard theatre plays as a reflection of the culture and intellect, "theatre instead is regarded as a method of entertainment".

At the end of the seminar, a heated debate took place between the audience who were mainly local artists, drama students and playwrights, and Mr. Haidar Mahmoud who deputised for the minister who had to leave before the discussion started.

The audience all insisted that a national theatre movement should exist and that the government should support the theatre movement and theatre art in the Kingdom.

Mr. Mahmoud announced that on the occasion of the International day for theatre, the

Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities has allocated special awards to be given to a local outstanding script writer, an actor and a play director.

Mr. Mahmoud also told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities has allocated a budget to revive theatre arts and to produce plays. On the other hand Mr. Hani Snowbar, assistant director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), in a recent interview with the Jordan Times said "the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities has promised to assist by offering JD 1,500 for each production through the Department of Culture and Arts. To my surprise and upon my return from England I discovered that the agreement had been cancelled due to the lack of an adequate budget to finance such a cultural event."

Mr. Snowbar also said that the cancelled agreement was signed by Haidar Mahmoud, himself and three other persons concerned with cultural events.

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The news is out. Lufthansa's Airbus comes to Amman.



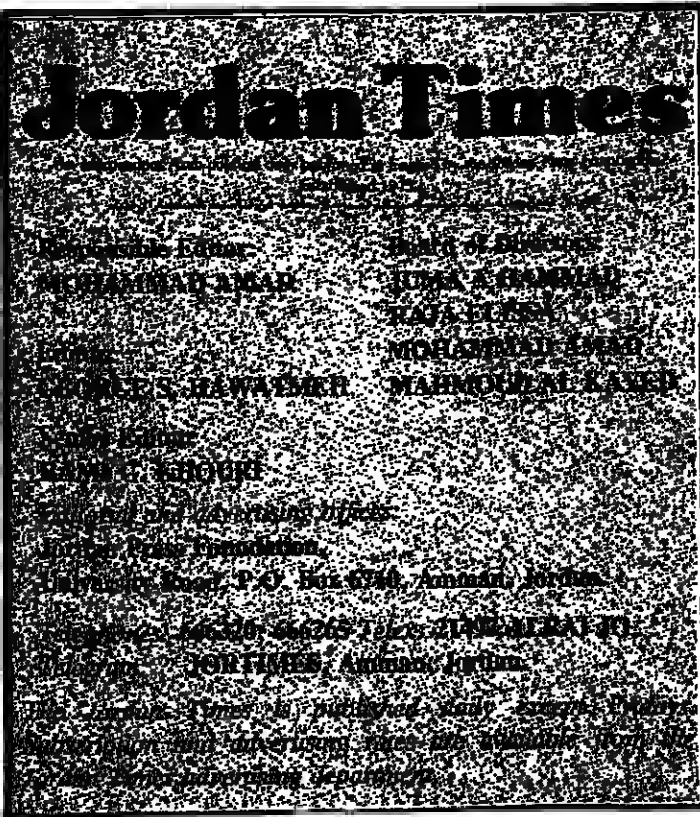
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Reagan has MX flying

TUESDAY's close vote on the MX missiles in the U.S. House of Representatives is doubtless a victory for the Reagan administration policies on security and defence. But more than that, it signifies how divided American public opinion is on the subject of the arms race and arms talks with the Soviet Union.

Before the vote, President Reagan had maintained that a negative response by Congress to his call for approving allocations for 21 MX missiles this year would undercut his negotiating position in Geneva. His opponents on the MX, by no means all Democrats, have contended that the MX is not really that necessary for U.S. security needs and building more of the missiles could only cloud the atmosphere around the Geneva negotiations.

Public opinion in the U.S. is divided basically between two schools of thought: One that calls for building up military strength in order to wring concessions from the Soviet Union in arms control negotiations; and the other which urges a more "sane" approach by quitting spending so much upon instruments of destruction. Most Americans, however, favour an end to the arms race and want both superpowers to pursue a policy of agreement and dialogue instead of the escalation process.

What Tuesday's vote has showed is a slight tilt towards what the president favours, at least in the sense that some Democrats who opposed the MX voted for it because they did not want to be blamed for any failure in Reagan's arms reduction efforts in Geneva. But the issue may not be as simple as all that, especially when the viability and usefulness of the MX itself are taken into consideration and also when the whole matter is looked at in the context of other related weapon systems on a global scale.

"Star Wars", officially known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), should be coming up for debate in Congress soon. This is another controversial subject upon which the MX vote will have some bearing but which will be an even bigger test for the Reagan administration's security policies. It is on budget allocations for "Star Wars" research; and not so much on building the envisaged 100 MX missiles; that much of the hard bargaining between the president and Congress will be done. But more importantly perhaps the hard bargaining will be with the Soviet Union, where the House Democrats are not exactly the same as the Kremlin leaders, and where Moscow is sure to show strong opposition to the space project.

For now President Reagan has his MX bargaining chip granted him by the American Congress. Who knows what the future holds for his other projects?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King urges European role

KING HUSSEIN made a speech to the Spanish Parliament in Madrid in which he concentrated on the Middle East question and the Palestine problem. He said that as the colonised regions of the world were gaining their independence, the Palestinian people were being driven out of their land to make way for a new kind of Zionist colonialism that has been threatening many nations in the region.

King Hussein reiterated Jordan's views that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved unless the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 has been implemented. He said that the Palestine problem forms the core of the whole issue and the root cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, he said, any solution to this crisis should take into consideration the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Peace cannot be achieved, the King said, through force and through the imposition of the will of the strong over the weak and through the usurpation of land.

King Hussein said that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement to reactivate efforts for peace is a chance to Europe including Spain to try to find a just solution to the Palestine problem and thus they can help solve the whole Middle East conflict. The Jordanian-Palestinian accord, he said, is designed to achieve justice for all people of the Middle East region.

Al Dustour: Time for peace

WITH AN open mind, objectivity and candour, King Hussein addressed the Spanish Parliament in Madrid Tuesday, urging the European nations to shoulder their responsibility towards peace. In his speech, King Hussein made a comprehensive review of the Palestine problem, and its developments over the years. But perhaps two particular points were most significant. These were: First, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of last month and second, his warning that any failure to reach peace would ultimately lead to disaster.

King Hussein said that the Jordanian-Palestinian accord is a bid to end the conflict for good, and to establish stability and peace for all. He said that the parties to the Middle East conflict should seize this opportunity, otherwise the forces of moderation will disappear for ever and elements of extremism and chaos will prevail.

King Hussein's views were based on a long history of frustrated and vain efforts to establish peace caused mainly by the intransigence of Israel and the United States, the two allies that have been thwarting all peace efforts. The King's warnings come as the last alarm bell for all.

Sawt Al Shaab: Addressing Europe in Madrid

KING HUSSEIN told the Spanish Parliament in Madrid Tuesday that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of Feb. 11 was a touchstone for all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that the agreement provides for elements of peace and is considered a genuine effort for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Hussein's speech was meant to make the European nations also understand the real situation in the Middle East and to urge them to work towards establishing peace. Through his visit to Spain, which is about to enter the European Community, King Hussein meant to carry to Europe a genuine bid towards peace on the part of the Palestinians and Jordanians and to pave the way for active European participation in the peace-making process.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Do not take Washington's talk that seriously

By Franz Schürmann

AMERICANS ARE a funny people. They like to show disrespect to their government and leaders. Cartoons in newspapers make the president look like a circus fool. Generals are shown as immensely fat monstrosities suffocated with medals. On domestic affairs, top officials and politicians are portrayed as acting on the basis of motives. And in foreign policy, one would think that president and his advisers were so ignorant and passive that all they did was to react to external events.

Foreigners looking at all this self-debasement begin to think the same way. "Why is Reagan or Shultz or Weinberger so stupid and ignorant?" "Americans haven't the foggiest idea of what is going on in this or that place." It seems as if foreign leaders must periodically come to Washington to patiently instruct the American presidency about the simplest

matters of foreign affairs.

But let me say as a long-time observer of U.S. foreign policy that this is all camouflage. Underneath the mask of the amiable fool is an extraordinary shrewdness. Reagan is one of the most skillful politicians the U.S. has seen in a long time. Shultz is bland and mild-mannered but he is no absent-minded professor. He has had years of the most demanding government and corporate experience behind him. And Weinberger was in addition to his similar government and corporate experience a long-time political commentator on a left-of-centre radio station in Berkeley. In the early 1960s, I used to see him there frequently. All three are clever, experienced men. They are not geniuses. But they understand the world of politics be it global or domestic.

And they know what they want. That is important for

people outside the United States to understand.

Difficult as it may be to believe, they also know what they want for the U.S. in the Middle East. This can not be inferred from any of their statements, but as in earlier years, can be deduced from concrete U.S. actions.

Words aside, what have been the key U.S. actions in the Middle East over the past few years? Three can be singled out:

(1) The U.S. has continued to pour a lot of money and weapons into Israel. (2) The U.S. has been gradually introducing more military power into the Arab Gulf countries, and (3) The U.S. went into and then out of Lebanon. While the first two policies go back well before the Reagan administration, all three have occurred during this administration.

One could infer from the third a downplaying of the Middle East in U.S. policy. Absolutely not. Every sign indicates Washington regards the Middle East as vital as ever. But action number three must be seen in connection with another recent move: a willingness to consult with the Soviet Union on the Middle East. These two moves seen together can only mean that Reagan and Shultz realise that diplomacy involving the Soviet Union and not power wielded only by the U.S. is the way to achieve stability in the Middle East.

But the first two actions can also not be ignored. Action number one has powerful support in the U.S. Congress. Action number two has been given impetus almost entirely from within the various administrations, and often against powerful pro-Israeli sentiment in Congress. Yet that impetus

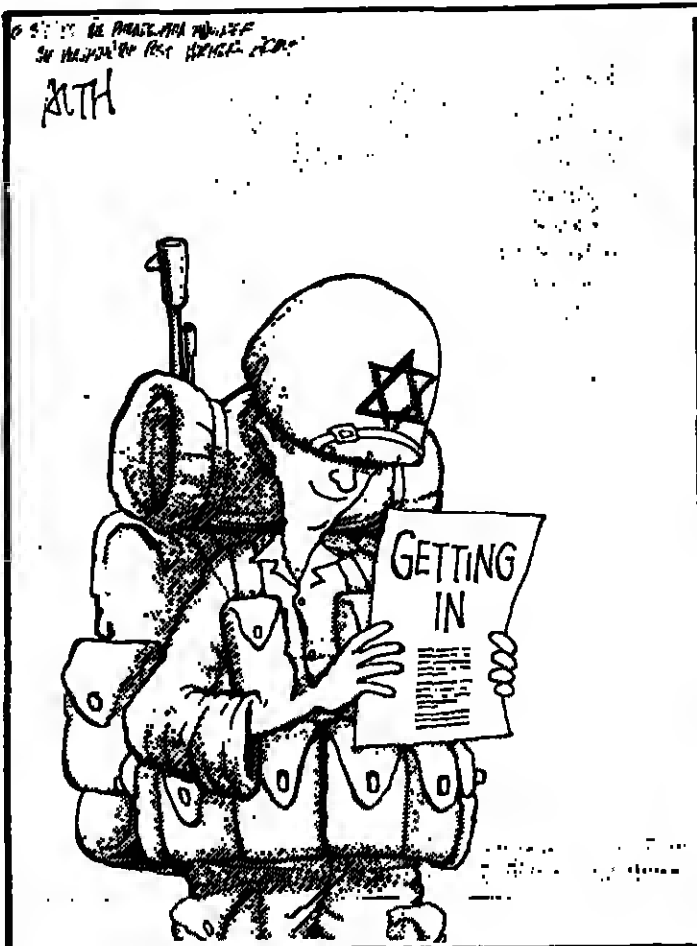
has grown. Over the last years, the U.S. government has come to regard the Arab World as increasingly important and has very quietly downgraded Israel to what it always was in American eyes: a country to which the U.S. was committed but not a strategic ally in a vital region.

Most of the Congress eagerly support Israel while the administration wants an "even-handed" policy. But people outside of America must remember that our Congress still thinks mainly in domestic terms. On the other hand, despite its rightwing inclinations, the Reagan administration has become strongly globalist. That is why Reagan himself is arguing for an immense globe-girdling navy.

The bottom line of all this is that when Washington calls for movement on the Palestinian issue, it is not just hypocrisy. And now even when leading

congressional politicians come out with the expected calls for more support for Israel, people abroad may not realise that slight cracks have begun to appear in that earlier wild enthusiasm for Israel. I have seen the tone of press comments change ever since the June 1982 invasion of Lebanon. There is a growing sense that Israel may be like some stunning modern mansion resting on weak foundations. Even pro-Zionists are now beginning to wonder whether the world can afford to let Israeli fantasies be played out any longer on a world scene filled with other explosive tensions.

As this new period in Middle East diplomacy begins, leaders in that part of the world might remember not to take all the talk from the American side that seriously and rather look to the broader trend of developments.



Portugal grapples with housing crisis

By David Reid
Reuter

LISBON — Portugal's Socialist-led government is grappling with one of the toughest and potentially most explosive political issues since the 1974 revolution — a chronic housing shortage and chaotic rent structure.

After a long debate this month, the 21-month-old coalition headed by Prime Minister Mario Soares won parliamentary approval for a controversial new rents bill. The government hopes this will be a first step towards resolving the housing crisis.

It still needs to pass another vote following work in committee to produce a detailed measure and could come into effect on Oct. 1. The bill, which in part lifts a freeze on rents dating back nearly 40 years, met bitter opposition from the Communists, Portugal's third largest party, and their allies. They said it was inappropriate at a time of austerity and high inflation and unemployment.

The Socialists and their Social Democratic coalition allies were joined by the opposition Christian Democrats in backing a measure which, while regarded as imperfect, was seen as a start to solving a major social problem.

Official figures quoted in the debate reveal the extent of the problem. Portugal is short of 700,000 houses, yet more than 300,000 are standing empty and 40,000 new homes are without buyers.

Tenants in the two major cities of Lisbon and Oporto have been paying rents at rates frozen long before the revolution, when the freeze was extended to the rest of the country. But the freeze does not affect new rentals since 1981.

All this has produced an odd situation. Nearly 17 per cent of tenants in central Lisbon and about 30 per cent in other areas are paying monthly rents of under 500 escudos (\$2.7). But some Portuguese are paying at least 50,000 escudos (about \$280) and foreigners very much more.

New house prices are beyond the reach of most Portuguese and it is estimated that only 3.9 per cent of house owners are under 40 years of age.

A long article in the state-owned Lisbon daily, *Diário de Notícias*, said the rent freeze had inhibited owners from letting their properties because they could not afford to keep them in good order. The newspaper said some 16,000 homes were awaiting demolition because of deterioration over the

years.

The new rents bill includes a complex system of graded increases according to the date of the rental. In some cases this would mean a jump of 842 per cent for premises rented before 1955.

It also provides for yearly minimum increases of two-thirds of the rate of inflation, currently running at around 30 per cent. Minister of State Antonio de Almeida Santos told parliament the new measure would stimulate investment in home building and encourage landlords to improve their rented property.

But tenant groups have bitterly opposed the proposed lifting of the rents freeze. Communist Spokeswoman in parliament Zita Seabra denounced the bill as "inopportune at a time when the Portuguese are undergoing a grave social crisis and unjust because it threatens the roofs of more than 3,000,000 people in rented homes."

The FP-25 said the action was in



Premier Mario Soares

protest against the rent bill. The association complained of an "obvious attempt at intimidation."

Media commentators were generally critical of the complexity of the measure and doubted whether a detailed version could be ready for implementation in October.

Diário de Notícias said a straightforward updating of rents would have been preferable. It said the government measure, despite its good intentions, risked "putting a goal into its own net" and in the end would take the blame for its impact on the public.

Pretoria crackdown encourages U.S. sanctions

By Arik Bachar
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — The killing of at least 18 blacks by riot police Thursday could undermine Pretoria's efforts to prevent the United States from imposing economic sanctions against South Africa, political analysts said Friday.

The deaths, which occurred when police opened fire on a crowd at Uitenhage in Cape Province, provoked international protests and added to the negative effect of recent actions by the government, such as its crackdown on dissent.

The timing of the killings, 25 years to the day after the massacre of 69 blacks at Sharpeville, could hardly be more damaging to the picture of "reform" which South African leaders have tried to paint to ward off outside economic pressure.

"The incident will reinforce pessimism in the United States about the situation in South Africa," said Professor Robert Schrire, head of the politics department at Cape Town University. "Incidents of this kind dispel any positive mood created by the government."

The shootings received wide international coverage just weeks after the U.S. Congress was presented with proposals that could hurt the beleaguered South African economy.

Congress was asked to ban new investments in South Africa and the sale in the U.S. of South African Krugerrand gold coins.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said the killings were deplorable and undermined the evil of apartheid. President Reagan described the deaths as tragic but said there was an element in South Africa that did not want a peaceful settlement.

In Britain, the opposition Labour Party said the killings were an appalling massacre which showed that nothing essential had changed in South Africa in 25 years.

Prof. Schrire said the incident would put more pressure on U.S. congressmen when they discussed calls for the withdrawal of American business from the white-ruled republic.

He added that it would increase the political cost of Mr. Reagan's "constructive engagement" policy under which the U.S. has muted criticism of Pretoria, hoping to persuade it to change its racial segregation policies through quiet diplomacy.

Mr. Reagan faces growing domestic pressure to drop this policy.

The latest deaths brought to 230 the number of people killed since unrest began in black communities just over a year ago.

The violence has been accompanied by crackdowns on political dissent, and last month 16 leading dissidents were charged with high treason.

"The problem for South Africa is simple: It is losing the benefit of the doubt among even conservative Americans," Prof. Sch-

rire said.

He said that in the past the promise of lucrative business in South Africa had compensated for political instability in the view of U.S. businessmen, but the present economic recession and political uncertainty formed a less attractive picture.

One of those in the forefront of the battle to prevent U.S. sanctions is Steve Bisenius, a former representative of American business in South Africa who recently founded a group to fight calls for an end to U.S.-South African corporate relations.

Like other opponents of sanctions, he has been striving for increased exposure in the U.S. of statements by the South African government that it plans to ease apartheid and consult the politically powerless black majority more closely.

He said after Thursday's killings: "You can have a thousand good deeds, but one such incident will blot them out."

Israel said to resume research for starting Med-Dead Canal

ISRAEL APPEARS to be reviving its plans to link the Mediterranean and Dead Seas with a 110-kilometre canal, using the altitude difference to generate hydroelectricity. Israeli radio announced on Feb. 17 that the cabinet had instructed the ministers of finance, energy and infrastructure to examine ways of financing research into "the desirability of starting" the first stage of the \$1,500 million project.

The canal would cross the occupied Gaza Strip, and the scheme has been condemned by the U.N. General Assembly as a violation of the Geneva Convention forbidding an occupying power from undertaking civil works on the territories under its control. Jordan has been particularly opposed to the project, arguing that the influx of Mediterranean water would raise the level of the Dead Sea, leading to flooding of agricultural schemes and the important potash works on the shore.

Reports last year suggested that Israel had shelved its canal plans. A study by Israel's state comptroller concluded that the project's economic feasibility had never been thoroughly investigated, and noted that the plans of the Med-Dead Project Company, established to implement the scheme, had "met with incredulity on the part of many independent experts." — Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) Bulletin.

LETTERS

More serious bridge

To the Editor:

I WONDER if the Jordan Times should not shift to more serious bridge lessons than from Charles Goren. Many of his recent articles are downright damaging to learners.

As an example, I refer to that in the edition of March 17. Any reasonable player in position WEST would have opened with heart K which would have set the contract one. And in the event WEST did open with the three of clubs, any reasonable SOUTH would have played a low spade to start with to keep control of the hearts. WEST would not have rushed up with the Q, given his indicated wish to find an entry with EAST.

In which case the contract could not have been stopped. The actual play as quoted, is hardly a lesson to learners.

A. Rajagopalan,
Amman.

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Help the parents do it themselves

By P.V. Vivekanand

EIGHT TEASPOONS of sugar and one of salt in one litre of water and it could mean life for a diarrhoea-stricken child. It is incredible to believe the phenomena, but, as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) statistics point out, the revolutionary, low-cost mixture helped save the lives of over half a million children in 1984. And, in the wake of a gradual worldwide acceptance of the mixture, it could mean two million lives annually in another five years.

The treatment, popularly known as Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT), is gaining increased recognition around the globe and 38 countries have launched national campaigns to propagate ORT and large-scale production of the life-saving mixture.

ORT, hailed as one of the most dramatic breakthroughs of the century in the field of child health, has been developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in close coordination with UNICEF. In 1984, only about 15 per cent of the world population had accepted its potentiality, but the picture is rapidly changing as more and more countries are becoming aware of the importance of ORT and its role in protecting the life of their future generations.

Diarrhoea, one of the most menacing child killers, drains out the water contents of the stricken child's body and the situation could be made worse by the unknowing mother who stops feeding fluids to the child. Sometimes the baby could be dead in a matter of hours.

The simple ORT mixture, which could be made at home in case of emergencies, provides the child's body with the equivalent of the drained out fluid contents in 24 hours and keeps the baby stable. Administering the mixture is simple; an eight-to-one proportionate compound of sugar and salt in one litre of boiled and cooled water fed to the baby every 24 hours. Two vital points: The proportions should be accurate and new solutions should be prepared every 24 hours.

It is not as if UNICEF sets up an office, opens centres around the country and starts distributing whatever medicine or injections it can. On the contrary, each and every step that the agency takes is carefully calculated and aimed at reaching the maximum number of people and involving as many local organisations and leaders as possible.

Furthermore, UNICEF programmes are always implemented closely in coordination with other U.N. agencies such as WHO, World Food Programme, Food and Agricultural Organisation and, in the Middle East, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The standard WHO/UNICEF formula for the mixture, in chemical terms, is:

Sodium chloride 3.5 grammes;
Sodium hydrogencarbonate 2.5 grammes;
Potassium chloride 1.5 grammes and
Glucose 30.2 grammes

To be dissolved in one litre of clean, boiled and cooled drinking water.

UNICEF statistics show that the U.N. agency itself distributed about 65 million packets of the mixture to 78 countries in 1984 and the annual production by developing countries could reach 100 million packets in 1985.

Until the WHO breakthrough in singling out ORT as the most cost-effective remedy against diarrhoea, dehydration was treated through elaborate intravenous feeding by medical personnel in clinics. ORT eliminates the necessity of such expensive and time-consuming treatment and offers the mother the best and most effective home-made remedy.

The ORT mixture, or "magic salt" as it came to be known in developing countries, "has the potential to save the life of enormous numbers of people around the world," says a senior official of the International Centre of Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh. "It is truly an incredible concept that something as simple, inexpensive and effective has emerged from the laboratory into people's homes on such a large scale."

The main task facing UNICEF in propagating ORT is how to get the message across to mothers — the most reliable authority on their children.

"We work in very close coordination with governments and regional organisations," says Victor Soler-Sala, regional director of UNICEF. "We also seek to enlist the help of social, political, religious and community leaders and influential figures in our campaign to make each and every woman aware of the potentiality of ORT and how it could help her save her children."

In the Arab World alone about 3,000 children die every day, and, according to Mr. Soler-Sala, over 50 per cent of the deaths could be attributed to diarrhoea. "Once the concept of ORT is accepted in every home, we expect the infant mortality rate (IMR) to come down dramatically, as it has done in most developed countries."

However, Mr. Soler-Sala points out, "the gross national product or the per capita income has very little to do with the country's child survival rate."



The use of home-prepared oral rehydration solution is being strongly encouraged. In Pakistan, a father gives his child a home-prepared mixture to treat diarrhoea (UNICEF photo).

He cites as an example Laos and Oman. In Laos the per capita income is \$80, but the IMR is 120 per 1,000, the same as Oman where the per capita income is \$4,090 (1982 figures).

"Whatever way you look at it, it all comes down to the mother," Mr. Soler-Sala said. "It is the mother who is usually responsible for choosing to use a village midwife to deliver her baby, to decide whether to breast-feed or not, whether to use ORT, what food to give the baby, what means are to be used to ensure hygiene, whether to take the child for immunisation, etc."

Empowering the mother with pre-set knowledge and techniques to protect the baby and utilising the entire society to make the means for child protection available to her is the basic strategy of UNICEF.

"The existing health services infrastructure is one of the vital elements in determining the effectiveness of our campaign," Mr. Soler-Sala said. "We have to get to each and every mother and woman in every nook and corner, and we use whatever means available to us: a country-to-country approach and offer whatever physical support we could, such as the use of the mass media, transportation etc."

In Jordan, UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, plans to launch a nationwide campaign from April. However, ORT packages are already available in most health centres.

An international 10-year campaign against the promotion of bottle-feeding was launched in 1981 and many countries have adopted legislation to prevent public promotion of substitutes for breast-milk.

However, according to the "State of the World's Children" report of 1985, it is not known yet whether the campaign has succeeded in reversing the trend of bottle-feeding.

Immunisation: Measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, tuberculosis and polio — the six major child killers — account for about five million child deaths annually in addition to five million disabled.

To counter these menaces, UNICEF has developed a unique low-cost immunisation programme which has found widespread acceptance around the globe. The \$5-a-child immunisation programme ensures better chances of survival for the infant up to his or her five years of age.

"We emphasise the fact that the present immunisation rates in developing countries could be doubled, or even trebled, if parents took advantage of existing immunisation programmes," Mr. Soler-Sala said. He points out that in many cases parents take their child to the first shot of injection — for instance, the three-stage anti-diphtheria vaccination — and drop out before the second or third shots could be administered. "In such cases, the child remains as exposed to diseases as it was before the first shot," he says.

Growth monitoring: Malnutrition in childhood, which can permanently affect the mental and physical development, is not only caused by lack of proper food but also by a number of other reasons, including frequent infections.

UNICEF outlines an effective programme of pinpointing whether the child is suffering from malnutrition by maintaining a growth chart. The chart, if properly maintained, can show abnormalities in the child's growth, mainly through a comparison of weight in the growing process until the age of five.

UNICEF advocates breast-feeding until the child is six months and gradual solid foods until one year when the infant is on the "regular family diet." A close watch on the baby's weight over the period has to be maintained and if the weight growth does not conform to a set proportion, then the mother can realise that the child is suffering from malnutrition which could be the result of a number of reasons. Expert advice has to be sought to pinpoint the cause.

"It is not at all expensive or cumbersome to maintain a growth chart," says Mr. Soler-Sala. "The practice is coming into force in over 80 countries."

The chart could be made of virtually indestructible plastic paper which can also serve as vital records about immunisation, weaning, breast-feeding, birth spacing etc. in the term of a parental guide to ensure the health of the entire family.

Commenting on the relatively higher birth rate in the Arab World and Africa, Mr. Soler-Sala said: "History has proved that once parents are assured of the survival of their child they refrain from increasing the number of family members. Therefore, if effective campaigns reach parents and convince them that if the four methods are properly followed their children stand better chances to survive, we would expect that the birth rates will gradually come down."

"However, everything looks perfect in theory, but the real problem lies in instilling the awareness of such simple methods in the minds of mothers," says Mr. Soler-Sala. "Our so-called social marketing, despite its universal merits, has its limitations and that is when governments, voluntary organisations, religious groupings, societies and the mass media come into the picture."

"Our role is to offer the critical factors and advice to governments and these organisations, and support them with whatever we could and maintain a steady base of expanding such activities, keeping in view available means and always looking for further means," he said.

For instance, Mr. Soler-Sala says, about 70 per cent of childbirths in developing countries are handled by traditional midwives and not by specially-trained medical personnel. "We are very much aware of this situation and our campaign also encompasses these traditional experts, who are present in almost every village in developing countries," he said. "In fact, we get to these people and advise them how best to ensure the health of the baby during and after the delivery process."

Mr. Soler-Sala cited as an example the severing of the umbilical cord after delivery. "We advise the village midwives how important it is to use a sterilised knife to cut the umbilical cord, which otherwise could be infected. We also advise the midwives how best they could keep a high hygienic standard in the delivery process etc."

Replying to those who say it is not a matter of will but of resources to implement health programmes, UNICEF asks a simple question: How much does the costs have to fall?

"It's amazing to see people look at the question," says Mr. Soler-Sala. "It would not cost more than one per cent of the world's gross national product to save the lives of approximately seven million children and to ensure better survival chances for many millions more. If the challenge is not taken up now, chances are that it will never be taken up."

Randa Habib's

Look out, diversion

WE ARE presently living in a strange era. When one makes plans for travelling and going away, this does not necessarily mean that things will come out as you want. Nowadays we take the plane to go to Cyprus for example, a one-hour-long trip after which we dream of a peaceful beach holiday, instead we might find ourselves somewhere else very far from our original destination and we experience long flying hours, fear and anguish.

This is because some people have either something to say or an item lost in the desert or a terrorist organisation they want us to know about... there are thousands of reasons for hijacking an airplane and ruining your travel plans. There are also buses that are hijacked, train robberies (since it is difficult to hijack a train) and yachts that explode (you remember Lord Mountbatten).

You are going to your work. It can be an embassy, a news agency, a travel agency, a department store or an airline office, and during the coffee break you hear a blast — a bomb or a few sticks of TNT. If you are lucky, you come out with minor injuries and the possibility of still drinking your coffee; otherwise, a few lines in the press will condemn this "barbaric action" that has cost the life of "innocent victims."

The last born craze in the world of modern craziness is kidnapping. You are coming back from work or you are going shopping; you also might be going to visit your old mother and "hop" they catch you and aim a revolver at your back, two men or more shove you in a car and here you are heading for the unknown. Then there are the shocked declarations of sensible people in the world. In conclusion, you are either very lucky and you are freed without much harm, or you are less lucky and you are freed after 10 or 12 months and you come out mentally shaken; or you are not lucky at all, and you are found in the boot of a car inside a bag...

After all this, let us talk about holidays, plans and leisurely walks...

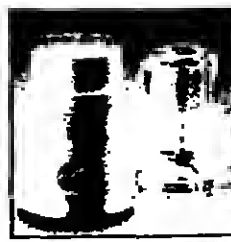


The UNICEF primary health care approach relies on communities to take part in running preventive and simple curative services, through nominating members for training, and contributing for medicines and advice. A clinic in Chad.

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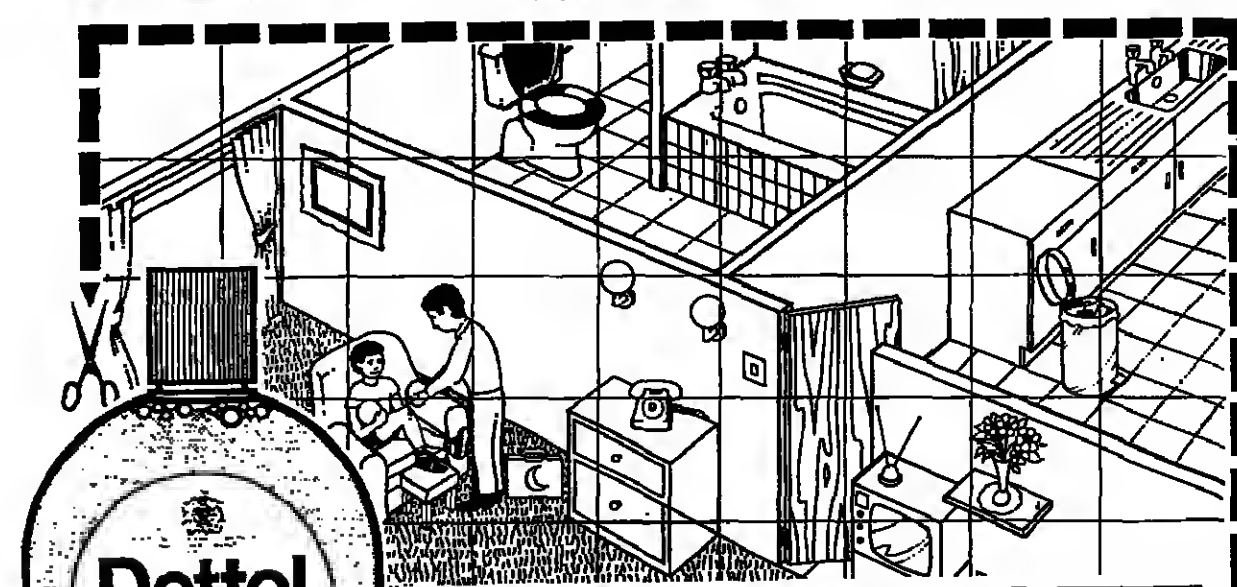


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3. Write in not more than 12 words why you choose Dettol



Write in not more than 12 words why you choose Dettol.

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THE BRITISH COUNCIL المجلس الثقافي البريطاني

The British Council has pleasure in announcing that our next courses in Colloquial Arabic will be held from April 15 to July 2, 1985. The courses will be at two levels.

Registration on April 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 from 3.00 to 6.00 p.m.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL المجلس الثقافي البريطاني

The British Council wishes to announce the commencement of the new term on April 13, 1985. Classes are for adults, aged 17 and over.

Term dates: 13 April - 3 July.
Class times: Afternoon and evenings
Ladies classes in the mornings
Fee: JD 39.-

Registration and placement testing

Registration will take place on the following dates.
April 1 - April 3
April 6 - April 7

Placement Testing 9.00 - 11.00
3.00 - 5.00
Registration 9.00 - 12.00
3.00 - 6.00

A fee of JD 0.500 will be charged for testing.

England wins over Ireland at Wembley

LONDON (R) — England scored their fifth successive victory Tuesday night when they beat Ireland 2-1 in a friendly Soccer International at Wembley.

A confident England side, 2-0 up, looked to be cruising home when Liam Brady, the best player on the pitch, scored from close in two minutes from the end after a mistake by debutant goalkeeper Gary Bailey.

England midfielder man Trevor Steven had crowned a confident first half performance from the home side by netting a cross from Terry Butcher, flicked on by Mark Hateley, on the stroke of halftime.

Gary Lineker, like Steven playing in only his second international, put England two ahead by chipping over Ireland goalkeeper Pat Bonner in the 76th minute. Bonner had kept Ireland in the game early on with good saves from Lineker, fullback Kenny Sansom and Hateley as England's new-look forward line caused numerous problems.

Ireland's attacking was limited to one shot by Eamonn O'Keefe in the first half before Inter Milan midfielder Brady took a hand, picking up a Frank Stapleton pass to net under Bailey's body.

England's night was also spoiled by injuries to captain Bryan Robson and Hateley, who both limped off with leg injuries in the second half.

Most of the first 45 minutes was

played in the Irish half of the field as Ray Wilkins and fullback Viv Anderson threatened to rip the Irish defence apart on the right.

Chris Waddle, another debutant, also caused considerable problems on the left with some snakey runs but Robson still appeared lethargic after his recent lengthy injury.

Ireland moved up a gear in the second half. But while Brady's slick left-footed skills and Gary Waddock's aggression could take Ireland to the edge of the England penalty area, Stapleton and O'Keefe were kept on a very tight leash by the impressive Butcher and Mark Wright.

Glenn Hoddle was as anonymous as Robson when he replaced him after the England captain turned over his ankle but new cap Peter Davenport, on for Hateley, had an immediate effect by setting up Lineker's goal with an astute pass.

England manager Bobby Robson said after the game that his captain should be fit by the weekend. Hateley had a precautionary X-ray which showed no damage.

The manager said: "We produced a decent performance."

Pedroza to defend title against McGuigan

LONDON (R) — Eusebio Pedroza of Panama is to defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) featherweight title against Britain's Barry McGuigan in London.

Although the exact date has yet to be fixed, it will be before July 10, McGuigan's manager Barney Eastwood said Wednesday.

The announcement followed McGuigan's demolition Tuesday night of France's Farid Gallouze to retain his European crown.

McGuigan, from Northern Ireland, was widely expected to be given a shot at Pedroza's title, but it took hours of discussion after Tuesday night's fight to clinch the deal.

Eastwood, who announced the news with promoter Mike Barrett, said: "We worked until three a.m. to iron out the final details and we had to return at seven a.m. before receiving the answers we wanted."

McGuigan, 24, is generally considered to be Britain's best world title hope for some time. Pedroza was here to see last night's fight, although an attack of influenza forced him to watch the bout on television at his hotel.

But the world champion would have been left in no doubt that the articulate McGuigan's reputation was well founded. McGuigan said: "I am absolutely delighted and the sooner we get the last details settled the better."

Strikers seeking crop of goals in World Cup qualifying matches

LONDON (R) — Four once-great European soccer nations with rejuvenated teams will be seeking a crop of goals against relatively modest opposition in Wednesday night's World Cup qualifying matches.

Scotland, Belgium, West Germany and Yugoslavia are at home to Wales, Greece, Malta and Luxembourg respectively and can justifiably expect to enhance their goal difference figures as they bid to reach the finals.

Scotland, who narrowly lost by the only goal in Spain last month when they were without veteran striker Kenny Dalglish through illness, welcome him back alongside the promising Maurice Johnston.

This group seven fixture revives memories of their stormy clash in 1978 when Dalglish's flying header sealed the Scots' place in Mexico at Wales' expense — a defeat the Welsh are more than anxious to avenge because a further loss would almost certainly dash their hopes again.

Belgium, whose team was torn apart by the Standard Liege bribery scandal, face the unpredictable Greeks in a group one match they must win to remain in contention.

Like Scotland, Belgium will be looking to an experienced striker in Erwin Vandenberghe, a former "golden boot" winner as the top goalscorer in Europe, for the crucial goals that would lift them to the top of their group.

West Germany, who lead group two with a maximum six points from three matches, meet Malta at Saarbrücken.

The home fans will be disappointed if Franz Beckenbauer's team, led by the in-form Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Rudi Voller, do not equal their two previous scorelines against the Maltese amateurs — 8-0 on each occasion.

Rummenigge, who scored two fine goals for his Italian club Inter Milan against Cologne last week, may even have his eyes on an equally grand individual total.

In group four, Yugoslavia play Luxembourg who have already conceded 13 goals in three matches. The Yugoslavs have recovered well after their disappointing showing in the 1982 World Cup finals and their young re-built team is sure to inflict further damage to luckless Luxembourg's "goals against" column.

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Swiss player beats American no. 4 seed

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (R) — Petra Delhees-Jauch of Switzerland played conservatively in windy conditions Tuesday and upset fourth-seeded American Camille Benjamin in the Challenge Round Women's Tennis Tournament.

Delhees-Jauch, whose world ranking has fallen to 95th from 49th two years ago, said after her 7-5, 6-2 win, "I gave myself an early birthday present because I'll be 26 Thursday."

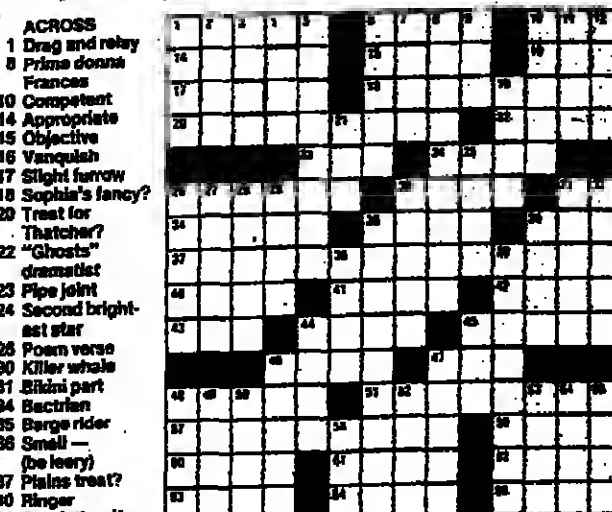
She won the last five games and said the windy setting helped her. "I just tried to keep the ball in and she kept trying to hit hard winners and made mistakes. When the opportunity was there I went to the net," she said.

Carina Karlsson, 21-year-old Swedish women's champion who reached last year's Wimbledon quarter-finals, produced a strong third set to beat Australian Elizabeth Minter, also unseeded, 6-7, 7-6, 6-2, in another opening-

round match. Karlsson won the second set tiebreaker 7-5 after losing the first 7-4. She overcame nine double-faults in the first set and swept to a 3-1 lead.

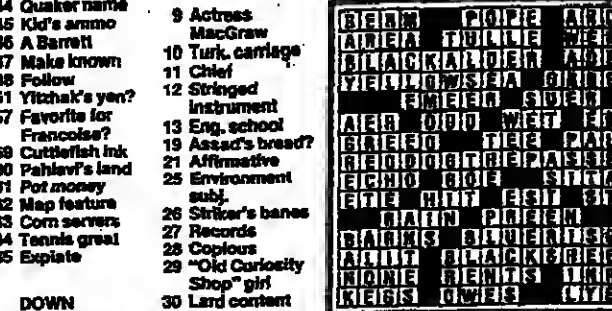
Karlsson, who won the Swedish title after her good showing at Wimbledon, said, "but after that I went down hill. Now I'm starting to feel better and I'm getting used to the players. I hope to do better from now on."

THE Daily Crossword



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Yesterday's Puzzle Subbed:



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1 Across: 1. Drag and relay; 2. Prime down; 3. France; 4. Conquest; 5. Appropriate; 6. Objective; 7. Vague; 8. Slight furrow; 9. Sophia's fancy; 10. Thatcher?; 11. Ghost; 12. Dramatist; 13. Pipe joint; 14. Second highest star; 15. Poem verse; 16. Killer whale; 17. Sacrifice; 18. Barge rider; 19. Small (be leery); 20. Pains treat?; 21. Finger; 22. Gairdner's wife; 23. Person of mixed descent; 24. Corp. pl.; 25. Quicker name; 26. Kid's ammo; 27. Barrett; 28. Make known; 29. Follow; 30. Yitzhak's son?; 31. Favorite for Francisco?; 32. Cuttlefish ink; 33. Pahlav's land; 34. Pot money; 35. Drug feature; 36. Corn sectors; 37. Tennis great; 38. Exile; 39. Toss relative; 40. Wine city; 41. Coagulated milk; 42. Fritz's fancy?; 43. Wide open; 44. An American; 45. Holiday law item; 46. Show; 47. Up - (at bay); 48. Grandiose; 49. Roman emperor; 50. Place; 51. Novelist; 52. Crooked; 53. Lhasa; 54. Security guarantee; 55. It's better never than never; 56. Air grip.

SECRETARY WANTED

Company requires full time secretary with good command of English. Must be fully conversant with all secretarial duties i.e. typing, telex etc. Any knowledge of Italian language advantageous but not essential.

Please contact Helen at 36399/28194

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Tel: 674821

DEUTSCHSPRECHENDE FRAUEN IN JORDANIEN

Unser Monatliches Treffen zum Kaffee findet am Montag den 1-4-1985 von 16.00-18.00 uhr im Amra Hotel Statt. Je De Deutschsprachende dame ist Herzlich Willkommen.

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Two bedroomed fully-furnished apartment. Located near 6th Circle on main road, opposite Garden City. (No telephone).

Contact 817121

FOR SALE

One Mercedes Benz 200 (1982 model), furnitures for salons and dining room and bed rooms, TV and Sony Betamax recorder, chandeliers, carpets, appliances like 24 cu. ft. GE refrigerator, washing machine and gas stove etc. etc.

Interested parties may see items any time starting Friday March 29, the residence of the Ambassador of the Philippines at No. 8 Sweiffyah, 6th Circle.

Please contact Tel: Office 668161, 661642, Res. 812410.

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AMMAN BOOKSHOP

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION (TCC)

Tender 11/85/ 03

Supply of ground and overhead cables, wooden poles and jumper wires

The TCC announces the availability of documents for the above mentioned tender. Contractors can obtain tender documents from the TCC procurement department at the corporation's new premises, Third Circle down street, Jordan Tower Building, against a non-refundable deposit of JD 160. Bids should be submitted not later than 14:00 p.m. (Jordan local time) on Monday May 13.

NOTICE Aqaba Railway Corporation Multimode Transport Project (Consultancy Services)

The Aqaba Railway Corporation announces the extension of the date of submission of prequalification documents concerning consulting services in regard of training, preparation of courses, code of practice and inspection.

The last date of submission of the prequalification documents to the tender secretary in Ma'an office not later than 12 O' clock noon on Tuesday April 16, 1985.

Director General Sahel Hamzeh.

AMRA HOTEL

Invites you to visit an exhibition of goods manufactured in the Orient.

Brass and wood art pieces and presents at the Nabatean Hall from 4 p.m. on Friday, March 29, until Monday evening, April 1. The exhibition will remain open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Notice: 10 per cent discount for faculty members of Jordan and Yarmouk universities and members of the Armed Forces.

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Performances 3:30, 6:15 8:30, 10:30

Cinema AL-HUSSEIN

Tel: 22117

THE TERMINATOR (Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 25155

I'M FOR THE HIPPOPOTAMUS (Colour)

3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema OPERA

Tel: 675573

COME BACK

3:30 6:15 8:30 10:30 p.m. Abadi, behind ALIA offices

Cinema PALESTINE

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REIGN OF FURY TODAY IS THE DAY OF REVENGE (Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

OCTOPUSSY (Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5-8

Philadelpha

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Shows at 3:30 / 8:30 p.m. TEL. 34144-34149

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.2105/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3673/80	Canadian dollars
	3.1590/1610	West German marks
	3.5700/50	Dutch guilders
	2.6760/90	Swiss francs
	63.48/55	Belgian francs
	9.6500/6650	French francs
	2016.0/8.0	Italian lire
	253.05/25	Japanese yen
	9.0750/0900	Swedish crowns
	9.0675/0825	Norwegian crowns
	11.2900/3050	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	329.75/330.75	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed with the FTSE 100 share index at 1530 GMT little changed at 1289.0, down 1.4. Trading remained subdued with the space of company results remaining the centre of attention, dealers said.

The weaker dollar prompted some profit-taking among U.S. favourites with ICI at 776 and Glaxo at 1,120 both down 15p while Jaguar dropped 16p to 301. Gold shares firmed up to six dollars as the bullion price firmed.

Government bonds showed net gains of up to 11/16 point with £2.3 basis points higher at 77.5 in trade weights terms. North Americans were firm.

Bat Industries firmed 3p initially to 356 after results slightly above market forecasts but dipped to 331 by the close on profit-taking.

Among other companies reporting Wednesday, DRG gained 8p to 175. Prudential firmed 25p to 618. Britannic added 12p to 692 and Babcock rose 5p to 152. Morgan Crucible dropped 12p to 213 following a £20.7 million rights issue while British Aerospace continued Tuesday's 20p advance, up 15p at 413, in further consideration of its annual figures.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURS. MARCH 28, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day when a very alive and active attitude can gain you a great deal of progress and advancement towards gaining the ambitions which impel you forward.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) See as many key persons as you can and plan the days ahead more intelligently with them. In the evening talk matters over with pals.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Clever ideas are coursing through your mind now and you can have a greater income in the future if you utilize them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can easily gain those personal aims that mean so much to you now, so early get busy on them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Quietly discuss your affairs with any bigwigs or experts you know, and get fine advice or backing you need.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A friend wants to introduce you to a charmer from out of town and it would be well to do so. Gain personal goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Try to operate in conjunction with a bigwig who can be most helpful to you and is a real expert. Show that you are sensible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Contact that partner who is a pioneer and fine opportunities to advance can be yours. Listen to ideas given to you carefully.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to get more income from the labors that you perform and be more efficient. An expert can be helpful to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A partner can see better ways for your advancement, so be sure to listen to this advice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Change your attitude about some practical aim which your family has and then you gain also.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Accept invitations to places of amusement and relieve tensions you are under. Spend some time with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you show a family tie that you are very devoted, you will enjoy the highest position within your family.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Generally speaking, this is quite a difficult day as most everyone will be in a contentious mood and ready to argue at the drop of a bat, so keep tactful and diplomatic.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Show that you are an A-1 citizen and keep any promises you have made to the letter. If you ink a higher-up, you may be a whipping boy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You want to get into new activities you know little about, but be wise and study into them carefully first.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are eager to complete some business affairs, but don't be forceful or you could lose out where it counts the most.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Your partners may want to make revisions to several agreements you have reached, but this would be detrimental.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Re-check your work today and be sure it is handled precisely, otherwise, you can get into trouble if you made any mistakes.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Before you get into that recreation that is appealing, be sure you count the cost well. Use control with your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be more considerate of the wishes of kin and help them to gain them and thereby avoid an argument.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan just now to handle your outside affairs more skillfully and organize your work much better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may get a sudden idea how best to add to your abundance but don't take any risks that could prove costly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may feel disgruntled because you think your personal life is not going as you would like it to.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Since you are an expert, you like to make direct comments, but be careful you do not hurt others' feelings today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have several personal goals you want to reach, but do only the preparatory work on them now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have to solve many a practical problem, so be sure to give an education slanted along trouble shooting lines. Be sure to teach early that a spirit of cooperation is needed in order to get the best results when dealing with others, even if the nature is a pugnacious one.

EC agrees compromise for new steel subsidies

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) industry ministers Wednesday agreed on rules for giving temporary new subsidies to steel firms in financial trouble after condemning protectionism by the United States.

By bridging differences between West Germany, France and Italy, the compromise plan averted the risk that Rome or Paris would pay further steel industry subsidies illegally, tempting Bonn to respond by curbing cheap imports from its Community partners.

Ministers reaffirmed that all steel subsidies must finish at the end of this year.

In one of their toughest attacks on U.S. trade policy, the ministers warned that Washington's protectionism on behalf of its steel industry could lead to a severe deterioration in relations between the two sides.

The ministers ordered the bloc's executive commission to explore all retaliatory measures that could be used if the United States persisted in actions which they said breached U.S.-Community trade agreements.

The ministers were responding to two grievances: U.S. refusal to let the Community sell steel pipes and tubes for a big U.S. oil pipeline outside its normal export quota, and U.S. pressure to curb Community exports of semi-finished steel.

Italy and France want to pay their steel industries extra subsidies this year of \$1.5 billion and \$1.1 billion respectively.

West Germany had sought to make these payments conditional on extra French and Italian cuts in steelmaking capacity, plus higher production quotas for less subsidized firms elsewhere.

Bonn's idea was opposed by Paris and Rome on the grounds that going beyond presently planned cuts could harm a steel firm's ability to return to profitability.

The final compromise gave the commission wide discretion on whether and by how much companies should make new capacity cuts in return for increased subsidies.

The ministers said in an announcement that the commission would apply existing rules requiring subsidies to be linked to a plan for restoring viability to the enterprise concerned.

By the end of this year, the Community is likely to have cut at least 30 million tonnes of steelmaking capacity from the 1980 level of almost 170 million tonnes.

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Meanwhile, Latin American nations are discussing a new bridging loan for Argentina to help it pay arrears on its \$50 billion foreign debt.

Mexican Finance Minister Jesus Silva Herzog Tuesday confirmed that a proposal, the latest in a long line of emergency plans put together for Argentina over the last year, was being discussed at the IADB annual meeting here.

Argentina's 11-bank creditors' steering committee last week pledged continuing support for a new \$4.2 billion loan, part of a rescheduling package tied to a \$1.42 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

But the IMF this month suspended the programme pending renegotiation of inflation targets missed by Argentina in February, in turn putting the new bank loan in jeopardy.

Mr. Silva Herzog, who helped cement an emergency loan of \$500 million for Argentina last year, said the bridging loan would be used to help pay off Argentina's bank interest arrears, now totalling some \$850 million dating back to November.

But delayed capital contribution payments by the U.S. and some other countries have

Funded by the U.S., Japan and West European nations, the bank is the major multilateral lending agency for development in Latin America and the Caribbean, having approved loans worth more than \$5 billion in the last two years.

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World governments' spending rise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Spending by government bodies has been rising steadily throughout the non-communist world, even under conservative administrations such as those of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, according to figures from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The fund calculates government spending as the government share each year of a nation's gross domestic product. Between 1974 and 1981 the overall percentage spent by governments at all levels rose from 35.97 per cent to 41.20 per cent. In a few countries, notable France, West Germany, Norway and Sweden, governments spent more than half of new wealth.

The fund's latest "government statistics yearbook" puts together the records of 129 countries. For the first time, it presents combined figures for many of them on all the money spent by local as well as by central governments.

In 1982 — the last year available — 38.3 per cent of the money value of everything produced in the United States was spent through governments, a low proportion compared with most major countries. But the proportion was up 1.42 percentage points from 1981, the first year of the Reagan administration.

Between 1977 and 1980, under former President Mr. Jimmy Carter, total government spending of all kinds rose to 36.02 per cent from 34.15 per cent, a difference of 1.87 percentage points.

Britain showed a rise of 1.55 percentage points to 49.82 per cent between 1982 and 1980, the first full year of the Thatcher government. In the previous five years, under governments headed by the Labour Party, the fund's figures for the government share of total spending show a decline.

There was a sharp rise of 3.28 percentage points to 51.21 per cent in France in 1982, the first full year of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's administration. There had also been a slow, steady rise in previous years.

No figures were provided for Japan and few for communist countries.

Detailed figures for poor countries were given as a proportion of the country's total production.

under conservative governments.

Major spending is military

One big element in the increase has been military spending.

"The growth in defence expenditures since 1979 has been most pronounced among industrial countries, where defence spending reached an average of 4.2 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product) in 1982," the fund's bureau of statistics said in an analysis of the figures.

GDP is the money value of all the goods and services a country produces in a year. It is roughly the same as national income.

Expenditures (for defence) in 1982 ranged from 5.9 per cent of GDP in the United States (6.2 per cent in 1983) to about 3 per cent in France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, and slightly below 2 per cent in Canada and Italy," it added.

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Expenditures (for defence) in

Weinberger: NATO has 'a lot' of interest in defence plans

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. defence secretary said Wednesday the NATO allies had shown "a lot of interest" in participating in U.S. research of a space-based missile defence.

On Tuesday, Mr. Weinberger formally invited the NATO nations, plus Japan, Australia and Israel, to join in the multi-billion dollar research programme.

"There seems to be a lot of interest in it and a lot of willingness to participate," the defence secretary said as he entered a second and final day of meetings with other NATO defence chiefs.

"We would like to have as much participation as possible," he added.

American officials had said Tuesday that the NATO defence ministers had strongly endorsed the research phase of the space weapons initiative, although none formally committed their governments to participation.

Mr. Weinberger also told reporters Wednesday that he was "delighted" with the U.S. House

of Representatives vote Tuesday in favour of spending an additional \$1.5 billion to produce a second batch of 21 MX intercontinental missiles "that will give us 42 (missiles) in all and is a good start on the full programme" he said.

France, which has been among the most skeptical of the allies on the space weapons subject, was not represented at the meeting. It does not attend NATO defence conferences because its forces are not integrated in the NATO military structure.

The French, and to a lesser degree the British and Italians, have raised questions about the feasibility of a space-based defence against Soviet attack and about the implications for NATO policy.

In a letter to his NATO coun-

terparts Tuesday, Mr. Weinberger formally invited the allies to participate in the research phase of the programme. He also sought to reassure them that Western Europe would not be left vulnerable if a space-based defence were adopted by the United States.

He also said consultations with the allies would play an "important part" in a U.S. decision about whether to erect any space weapons system that was deemed by the research to be useful.

Mr. Weinberger asked in his letter that the United States be given responses within 60 days.

Michael Heseltine, the British defence secretary, told reporters his government fully supported the research and would respond to Mr. Weinberger's letter "urgently and with support."

He did not say what the response would be but strongly hinted that Britain would join the programme.

Mr. Heseltine reiterated the British government view that the question of whether to deploy a

space weapons system would have to be subject to negotiations with the Soviets.

Manfred Woerner, the West German defence minister, said President Ronald Reagan's research Programme was welcomed in Bonn. He added that his government would insist on "full" European involvement in the research in "fair partnership" with the United States.

When he introduced the space weapons plan in March 1983, Mr. Reagan said it was an attempt to determine whether it was possible to use new technologies to produce non-nuclear space weapons that could render nuclear missiles obsolete.

Also on Tuesday, the defence ministers heard U.S. Gen. Bernard Rogers' recommendations on how to implement a 1983 NATO decision to withdraw 1,400 nuclear warheads from Europe, reducing the alliance's stockpile of short-range nuclear weapons by the end of 1985.

India has over 85,000 Tamil refugees

NEW DELHI (R) — More than 85,000 refugees from Sri Lanka have fled to India since ethnic unrest erupted on the island in July 1983, the government said Wednesday.

Duluri Sinha, minister of state for home (interior) affairs, told parliament in a written reply that the refugees were being housed in camps in southern Tamil Nadu state.

The government had given 607 million rupees (\$50 million) to Tamil Nadu for relief assistance, Mr. Sinha added.

Guerrillas in Sri Lanka are fighting for a separate state in the

north and east for the island's 2.5 million minority Tamils.

Sri Lanka's relations with India have been strained over Colombo's charges, which New Delhi denies, that guerrillas are trained in southern India.

Colombo in turn denies India's charge that refugees are fleeing the island because of harassment by security forces.

Meanwhile the Indian government said that more than 130 people died in violence during India's recent national and local elections.

Home (interior) Minister S.B. Chavan said in a statement to par-

liament that information gathered so far showed 83 people died in clashes during polling for local assemblies earlier this month and 48 others were killed during unrest in December's national elections.

The statement said 281 firearms and 174 bombs were seized by security forces in eastern Bihar state alone during both elections.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who took power in October when his mother Indira Gandhi was assassinated, was swept back to power with a massive majority in the national polls.

Taiwanese protest over return of Chinese boat

TAIPEI (R) — Scores of demonstrators pelted South Korea's embassy with eggs and tomatoes Wednesday and one man set himself alight in a protest against Seoul's decision to send a torpedo boat and its crew back to China.

Taiwanese authorities appealed for calm on the island after the demonstration, illegal under martial law.

The protestors also demanded that Taiwan sever diplomatic relations with South Korea, the only Asian country that has formal ties with the Nationalist-ruled island.

The Seoul government said Tuesday it would return the boat and crew after receiving what it termed a formal apology from Peking for the intrusion of three Chinese warships into South Korean waters on Saturday in pursuit of the vessel.

One man poured petrol on his clothes and set himself ablaze. Meanwhile heavy seas Wednesday prevented a Chinese Navy torpedo boat and 13 crewmen being returned home as promised by South Korea.

Thatcher to make major Asian tour

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher takes her personal brand of diplomacy to unfamiliar parts next week on a six-nation tour of Southern Asia.

Mrs. Thatcher will visit Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Sri Lanka and India between April 5 and 13 on her first major Asian tour since coming to power in 1979.

"It's an area of the world she regards as important and wants to know more about," a Thatcher aide said.

Mrs. Thatcher will be the first

British leader to go to Brunei, the oil-rich Sultanate granted independence last year, and the first in a quarter of a century to visit Sri Lanka.

Diplomatic sources said the trip would serve to boost Mrs. Thatcher's image on the world stage.

They said she had given greater attention to diplomacy since being re-elected in 1983 and increasingly considered herself a prime mover in reducing East-West tension.

"She'll want to tell Asian lea-

ders how she sees superpower relations developing, based on her favourable first-hand impression of the new Soviet supremo (Mikhail Gorbachev and her close friendship with President Reagan," a British source said.

"She will also want to get an Asian perspective on East-West relations," the source added.

Mrs. Thatcher said after talks with Mr. Gorbachev last December, before he took over on the death of President Konstantin Chernenko, that she could do business with him.

Bomb injures 4 outside offices of Chilean daily

SANTIAGO (R) — A bomb explosion outside the offices of the Chilean government newspaper La Nacion injured four people on the eve of a day of protest called by left-wing opposition groups, eyewitnesses said.

The blast shortly after 11 p.m. Tuesday (0300 GMT) shattered windows in nearby buildings, many of which are government ministries. The witnesses said the bomb appeared to have been left in a car.

Employees at La Nacion, whose offices are across the city's main

square from the Moneda Palace housing President Augusto Pinochet's offices and the Foreign Ministry, said a journalist was among the injured.

Residents in the city of Rancagua, 90 kilometres south of Santiago, said a bomb had exploded there at about the same time. No injuries were reported.

The attacks followed the killing of two members of the security forces on Monday night in the southern city of Concepcion when a bomb exploded in the city's main hotel.

IAEA has no evidence of any 'Islamic bomb'

KARACHI (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has no evidence any Muslim country is building a so-called "Islamic bomb," a senior IAEA official said in an interview published here Wednesday.

IAEA Deputy Director Gen. Maurizio Zaffarano told the Karachi daily Dawn that the agency did not know of any case where Muslim countries had diverted nuclear materials to construct an atomic bomb.

Critics of Pakistan's nuclear programme, especially in the United States and India, charge that Islamabad is building a bomb.

Pakistan has begun enriching uranium — the first step towards making a bomb — at its top-secret

nuclear laboratory near Islamabad but insists this is for peaceful purposes only.

Gen. Zaffarano, who was in Lahore for a conference of nuclear scientists, said Pakistan could probably make a nuclear bomb. He said the best proof of peaceful intentions would be for Pakistan to allow international inspection of all its nuclear facilities.

Islamabad refuses to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty until India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, does so.

The United States and West Germany have offered to help Pakistan develop a nuclear programme for peaceful purposes if it signs the treaty.

No end in sight to Burma's jungle wars with guerrillas

RANGOON (R) — The Burmese Armed Forces celebrated their 40th anniversary Wednesday engaged in one of the biggest and least publicised jungle wars in Asia.

Speaking at a military parade here to mark the event, the Burmese Defence Minister and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Kyaw Htin said anti-government insurgents were no longer in a position to mount large-scale attacks.

"Driven to remote border regions they are in no position to attack in force and have been sending out small teams of saboteurs," he said.

But foreign diplomats here said no immediate end to the fighting was in sight.

Last Sunday the government said its soldiers and airmen had killed 1,870 guerrillas from 19 different rebel groups in 3,014 clashes during the past 12 months.

It said 20 of those clashes were major battles and airstrikes were called in to help ground troops.

The government statement said 566 of the army's 70,000 soldiers were killed and 1,195 were wounded during the same period.

Armed rebellion in Burma

broke out soon after the country became independent from Britain in 1948.

The rebels include the pro-Chinese Burmese Communist Party (BCP). Ethnic minorities such as the Karen, Kachin, Shan and PA-O, as well as "pocket armies" led by opium warlords.

They operate in rugged and jungled regions along Burma's borders with Bangladesh, India, China, Laos and Thailand, battling the Burmese army — and at times each other — with mortars, recoilless rifles, rockets and anti-aircraft guns.

The government has failed to crush the Karen rebellion despite its siege of Karen bases and trade centres which began 16 months ago.

The BCP, the largest insurgent group, continues to worry Rangoon even after China cut off most of its arms aid to the guerrillas in order to cultivate relations with Burma in 1980.

The Communists operate in or near the "Golden Triangle" opium-producing region of Burma, Laos and Thailand, and finance operations with the production and smuggling of drugs.

Australia not to join Star Wars research

SYDNEY (R) — Australia, one of 17 nations asked by the United States to join its "Star Wars" research, will not take part in the programme, the Defence Minister's office said Wednesday.

Australia had already made clear it would not be involved in research under Washington's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), a spokeswoman for Minister Kim Beazley told Reuters.

The government was reacting to a U.S. invitation announced Tuesday by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger to its NATO allies and Israel, Japan and Australia to join its research programme into space-based defence against nuclear missiles.

The formal invitation was issued in a letter released to the press almost as soon as it was handed to 13 NATO defence ministers attending a nuclear planning meeting in Luxembourg.

But Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke told parliament Wednesday that his government had not received any official invitation from Washington to join the SDI programme.

Responding to an opposition question, Mr. Hawke said, "I have not received any such invitation or communication from Mr. Weinberger."

Australia is a close ally of the United States with strong links under the ANZUS defence alliance and with joint military communications bases here.

The spokeswoman for the defence minister said in Canberra that Mr. Hawke had said several times in a press conference during a trip to Washington last month

that Australia did not endorse the SDI programme.

"It's not an initiative as far as the Australian government is concerned that receives our endorsement," Mr. Hawke had said. "It is based upon assumptions about a capacity for total defence against incoming offensive weapons which raise very serious questions."

He had sought and received assurances from Mr. Weinberger and President Reagan that under the two countries' joint facilities the SDI was not involved, the spokeswoman said.

Denmark against SDI

Meanwhile the Danish parliament has voted against any involvement in Star Wars anti-missile systems and urged the country's government to work against them.

The largely Socialist opposition carried a vote against the minority government urging it to work against any placing of weapons in outer space and to oppose participation in research and development of space weapons.

The vote was carried 74 to 66 in the 179-seat parliament (Folketing) with no abstentions. The four parties in the ruling centre-right coalition and the small right-wing Progress Party opposed the motion.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said that parliament might as well vote against the weather being cold next winter but he added that the government would loyally follow the wishes of the majority.

Sino-Soviet dialogue to resume on April 9

PEKING (R) — China said Wednesday it would resume talks with the Soviet Union next month on ways of improving political relations and signs that a thaw is under way between the two long-hostile Communist giants.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the sixth round of the discussions begun in October, 1982, would take place in Moscow starting on April 9.

He did not say who would lead the Chinese delegation, but Chinese officials have said they expect Vice Foreign Minister Qian Qihou to represent Peking again.

Since the fifth round of talks late last year, when Mr. Qian

faced his old sparring partner, Deputy Foreign Minister Leonid Ilyichov, there have been a number of signs that the two sides have decided to work towards healing their two-decade rift.

First came news that Sino-Soviet trade was to rise sharply this year, then Peking and Moscow announced agreement on a 1986-1990 trade pact putting economic ties back on a stable long-term path.

In late December Peking played host to the Vice-Premier Ivan Arkhipov, the highest ranking Soviet official to visit China since the 1960s.

COLUMNS 768

3-legged chicken found in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-legged chicken was discovered in Amman slaughter house, Al Dostour daily reported Wednesday. The third leg was only discovered after the chicken was killed and its feathers removed. The workers at the slaughter house said the chicken was covered with feathers. Dr. Ibrahim Abedi attributed the phenomena to an incomplete split of the zygote. The chicken was 50 days old and weighed 1,500 grammes.

Palestinian has kidney transplant in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — A 30-year-old Palestinian became the first kidney transplant patient in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday after a two-hour operation at Mafraq Hospital, 40 kilometres east of here, the doctor who led the operation said Wednesday. Abdullah Daar told Reuters the patient, Khaleel Abumaj, was doing "extremely well." He received a new organ from his 26-year-old sister. Daar said there was a great demand for kidney transplants in the UAE and others would follow.

Minister jailed for mutilating corpses

CHESTER, England (R) — A Methodist minister portrayed in court as a "Jekyll and Hyde" character was jailed after confessing he hacked off the genitals of male corpses awaiting burial in his remote Welsh graveyard. Emrys Owen, 62, was sentenced to four years in prison by a judge who said his stomach-turning crimes had "abused the trust of the living and dishonoured the dead." Prosecutors told the court that the outwardly respectable minister was a homosexual pervert who admitted mutilating three bodies and photographing the sexual organs he had severed.

Joan Collins meets Princess Diana

LONDON (R) — The queen of television soap opera Joan Collins met Britain's Princess Diana at a charity fashion show given by their favourite dress designer Bill Oldfield. Both Collins, the star of the U.S. television show Dynasty, and the princess wore dresses designed by Oldfield, whose latest collection was being shown to raise money for Dr. Barnardo's Homes for Orphaned Children. Oldfield, 35, was himself brought up in a Barnardo's home.

Crazed farmer shoots 12

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — A farmer with a history of mental illness killed 12 people in the little town of Fahs with shotgun blasts before committing suicide, police said. The victims included the man's pregnant wife, his mother and sister, police said. A neighbour in Fahs, which is 60 kilometres south of Tunis, said Ben Jebir, 28, who had been treated several times in a Tunis mental hospital, ran amok Monday night for unknown reasons.

Plane toilets to have smoke detectors

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Transportation Department ordered airlines operating in the United States to install smoke detectors in lavatories of all their large aircraft within 18 months to give pilots early warning of an in-flight fire that may not be easily detected. The regulation, part of a series of proposals aimed at providing airline passengers with better protection against fire, also would require airlines to have automatic fire extinguishers in lavatory trash receptacles and additional hand-held fire extinguishers in the cabin.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkenson

POP ART

By Mary Cec Whitton

ACROSS

- 1 Half a hunk
- 2 Wise, slantly
- 3 Dandy
- 4 Corn bread
- 5 Coolidge
- 6 "Pretty make it all in"
- 7 Kipper
- 8 Pedro's
- 9 Jacques' agent
- 10 Type of test
- 11 Hatched
- 12 Hit the road
- 13 Recreation area
- 14 Discoverer of the Pacific
- 15 Confugal
- 16 "What — say —"
- 17 Straight comb
- 18 Emulate a peacock
- 19 Hibarna
- 20 Proposes
- 21 Force out
- 22 Red Sea port
- 23 Floor covering
- 24 300
- 25 "Pretty make it all in"
- 26 Lacoste of tennis
- 27 Certain college
- 28 Office
- 29 Paul's need
- 30 Eastern college
- 31 Harry's laund
- 32 Female
- 33 Offensive
- 34 Ballroom's
- 35 Scoundrel
- 36 Abound
- 37 Movie treat
- 38 Scott, slider
- 39 Heston's "Ben"
- 40 "Mighty —"
- 41 Title for Echo
- 42 Speaks out of turn
- 43 "She's a girl"
- 44 Furry in a way
- 45 Rattle bird
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DOWN

- 1 Catch hold
- 2 Verdi opera
- 3 Latin abbr.
- 4 Yuhke into
- 5 Lane
- 6 Marquise for short
- 7 Elec. measure
- 8 Balzac
- 9 Ryan and Dunne
- 10 Hot today
- 11 Swimming place
- 12 "— Gang"
- 13 Tightwad
- 14 Beau Brummell
- 15 Algerian port
- 16 Special squad
- 17 Address Sommer
- 18 Dispute
- 19 "What — say —"
- 20 Straight comb
- 21 Contend
- 22 Evening
- 23 Stagnate
- 24 Pick the tents
- 25 Bonuses of a kind
- 26 Of petroleum
- 27 Peking zoo
- 28 Danton
- 29 Scott, slider
- 30 Cup var.
- 31 Eight pref.
- 32 Muse of poetry
- 33 Tings
- 34 Felt of best
- 35 Get aboard
- 36 Sturgeon yield
- 37 One who gives way
- 38 Pol base
- 39 Type to Burns
- 40 Vegas
- 41 Pub measure
- 42 Denial
- 43 Vase with a base
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- 94 "She's a girl"
- 95 "She's a girl"
- 96 "She's a girl"
- 97 "She's a girl"
- 98 "She's a girl"
- 99 "She's a girl"
- 100 "She's a girl"

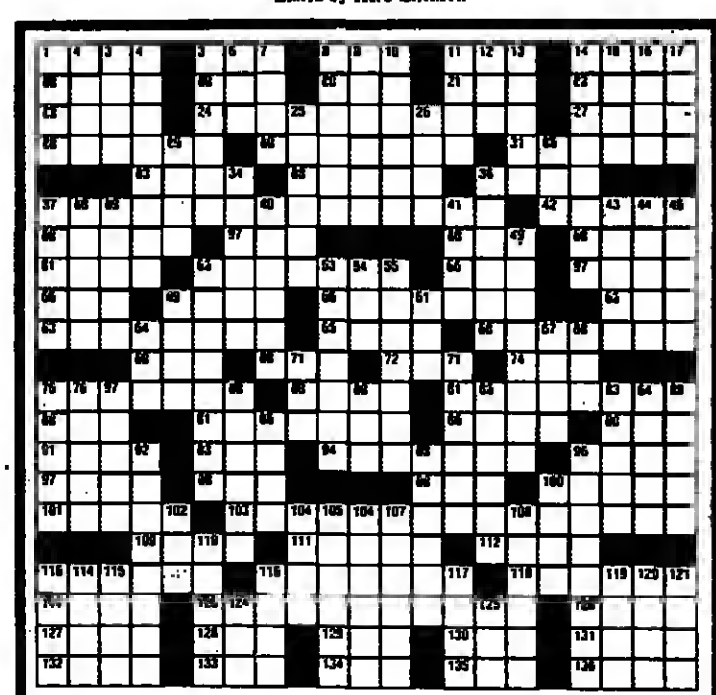
Diagramless

19 X 19, by Ned McCarthy

ACROSS

- 1 Work's title
- 2 Part of the leg
- 3 Soft drink
- 4 Rash
- 5 Soft drink
- 6 Meat rounds
- 7 So be it
- 8 Baseball's
- 9 Speaker
- 10 Unrefined
- 11 Commando mission
- 12 Blacksmith
- 13 et times
- 14 Sunnybrook
- 15 Farm less
- 16 Coop residents
- 17 Scottish-Irish
- 18 Stand
- 19 Hardtops and
- 20 Hatchbacks
- 21 Br. comrade
- 22 Browning's before
- 23 Evidence
- 24 Wood sorrel
- 25 Repeat
- 26 Write circle of
- 27 Curle or
- 28 The womanish
- 29 Brille
- 30 Military miles
- 31 Hollywood heavy
- 32 Former
- 33 Yes to Yvette
- 34 Physician's
- 35 pay
- 36 Harum chamber
- 37 Musical show
- 38 Bird cage
- 39 Self-saint
- 40 Agents: etbr.
- 41 "One Day — Time"
- 42 Drowsy
- 43 Candidate's
- 44 quest
- 45 Slow or setter
- 46 Lame-taking
- 47 Stupid ones
- 48 Old-time actor
- 49 Reginald
- 50 Clock face

FOR RELEASE MARCH 10, 1985



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Twin dilemmas: why's so much week left at end of my paycheck? How'd such a lot of pencil remain after eraser was away?
2. Can a guy be guilty of cupid and not be guilty of stupidity also?
3. "Income" is the opposite of "outgo," is "dego" the opposite of "outcomes"?
4. Bude hat took rubber duck to heated bath, cooked her.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. OCYRX GEOM ITRY CABYM, OLFY VAXCM ITRY
BLXYM, GLF KEMF YRYXOBY ITM MEKY
TAVCY. — By Martha P. Gormer
2. LO SEZOBLET FNUS XULX AIZZFGCT LUAPFEA
CLNB IZSICKXFGT OA BSK LITSDF TSZF
PLDX XS BDSP. — By Alvin B. Lohar
3. CLIKK UOSLSVTUOIRT KBABQSHDV UTHOLC
CBTAXX SBIEHKEQQN RN OBVLHAB ILLH
LEXB. — By Frances Marcus